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Champion
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New mayoral charities announced

Canal towpath project completed

The mayor is pictured with volunteers after the presentation ceremony. Code1081199

Civic presentation to borough volunteers

VOLUNTEERS from throughout the borough who have given up more than 100 hours of their time to help others have been presented with certificates at a special ceremony hosted by the Mayor of West Lancs, Councillor Nikki Hennessy.

A total of 21 volunteers qualified for the West Lancs Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) 100 and/or 200 voluntary hours awards.

After the presentation the mayor joined with a number of West Lancs charities and members of the West Lancs Clinical Commissioning Group to celebrate the contribution that volunteers make to the community.

Jan Howard from West Lancs CVS said: "The event celebrated the huge volunteer commitment within West Lancashire.

"We would like to express a thank–you to all our volunteers for their invaluable contribution they provide to the organisations throughout West Lancashire."

The Volunteer Centre is a service provided by the West Lancashire Council for Voluntary Service set up to support both volunteers and organisations who use volunteers.

To join up, contact the Volunteer Centre on 01695 733737.

ROYAL AWARD FOR DEFIBRILLATOR CAMPAIGN GROUP

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

A CAMPAIGN set up by a former Mayor of West Lancashire during her year in office, to install life–saving devices across the borough has been awarded the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

Sue Murrin–Bailey, from Parbold began fundraising for defibrillators during her year in office from May 2011.

Then at the end of her civic year she continued to work for the cause, forming the Lancashire Defibrillator Campaign group. To date they have fitted 28 community public–access defibrillators across West Lancashire.

The defibrillators, which cost around £1,400, deliver an electric shock through the chest to the heart designed to halt an irregular rhythm and allow a normal rhythm to resume following sudden cardiac arrest.

They are placed in protective cabinets which can be accessed 24–hours–a–day with a code given out by emergency services operators.

A number of defibrillators have also been installed inside schools and businesses across the area.

The campaign was one of two winners from Lancashire to be given the national honour, which recognises outstanding voluntary contributions.

With support from the North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) and their mapping facilities, the Lancashire Defibrillator Campaign is now working on fundraising and locations for a further 13 devices.

As part of the campaign free Heart Start sessions are provided for people to learn about CPR and how to use defibrillators.

Sue Murrin–Bailey told the Champion: "We were surprised but thrilled to be given the award as it is a brilliant way to raise more awareness of the campaign.

"We believe that we were given the award because of the Heart Start training that we do with community groups, businesses and schools, to make sure that they know how to do CPR and how to use a defibrillator – which is absolutely vital.

"We have got a ring of more than ten 24–hour access defibrillators around Ormskirk and now we are planning to create rings in each area across West Lancashire.

"We will also be focussing on raising awareness of where the devices are, and we are meeting Ormskirk Community Partnership to draw up a map of the locations so they can be accessed as quickly as possible when they are needed.

"We are installing a further three in the next few weeks and will continue to fundraise for many, many more across the region – we are not slowing down at all.

"It doesn't stop now – we are aiming to make the campaign bigger!"

Each of the winning groups will receive a certificate signed by the Queen and a commemorative crystal, presented by Lord Shuttleworth KCVO, at a special ceremony arranged by the Lieutenancy Office.

They have also received an invitation for representatives to attend a royal garden party at Buckingham Palace later this summer.

Lord Shuttleworth said: "This year's result makes a total of 38 winners from Lancashire since the award was inaugurated by the Queen in her Golden Jubilee Year in 2002.

"The awards, which are the highest national honour available to a voluntary organisation, are a reflection of the substantial amount of work undertaken by these voluntary groups in the county."

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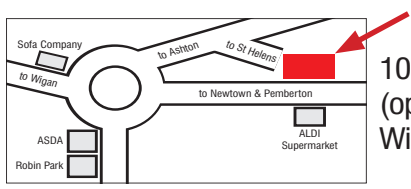

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Council issue warning over fly–tipping

WEST Lancs Council chiefs have issued a warning to people who pay someone to remove their rubbish to be aware of their legal obligations to notify the authority is after two people were prosecuted following a fly–tipping incident in Halsall.

Ian Garland and Lucy Spilsbury, formerly of Byron Close, Blacon, Chester, were both fined £600 and ordered to pay a £60 victim surcharge and costs of £462.47 at Ormskirk Magistrates Court for offences contrary to the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

The court heard how the council's environmental enforcement officers found 11 polythene bags dumped on Renacres Lane, Halsall, in September 2014 after receiving a complaint about fly–tipping.

Each bag contained two or three normal–sized bin bags of household waste and officers found information relating to Mr Garland and Miss Spilsbury inside.

During the council's investigations Mr Garland informed officers he had paid someone to remove this waste and had a receipt as proof. But when both

The discarded bags

Miss Spilsbury and Mr Garland were served with a legal notice under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 ordering them to provide this information, they failed to comply.

By failing to provide this information Mr Garland and Miss Spilsbury prevented the people responsible for the fly–tipping from being brought before the courts

Mr Garland and Miss Spilsbury did not attend the court hearing and were prosecuted in their absence.

Councillor Kevin Wright, West Lancs Council's iportfolio holder for community safety, said: "These people were prosecuted for failing to give the council information that could have assisted us in bringing a fly–tipper to justice. This prosecution sends out a clear message that if the council serves on you a legal notice, you must comply with it, or face the consequences."

Problems with fly–tipping can be reported 24 hours a day on the the council's website. Residents can also report problems with litter or fly–tipping by calling 01695 577177 between 8.30am and 5.30pm, Monday to Friday.

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Outreach nursing service to be axed

Funding withdrawn from team described as 'invaluable' by patients

Report by **Henry James**

JUST weeks after the Champion carried a story describing how the mother of a youngster suffering from a rare blood disorder was indebted to a community children's nursing team based at Ormskirk Hospital, the service is to be scrapped.

Funding has been cut to the Children's Community Outreach Team (CCNOT) which was set up to reduce avoidable hospital admissions of children and young people and to "facilitate early discharge from hospital."

Set up in 2013 the service is made up of a team of experienced paediatric nurses who provide ongoing medical treatment and assessment for sick children at home seven days a week.

They also support children with a range of conditions, including tonsillitis, gastroenteritis and mild asthma, as well as rarer conditions and those that require support over a longer period. And they reduce hospital admissions in a number of ways, including providing daily intravenous antibiotics.

The CCNOT service has also been praised in patient satisfaction surveys, receiving comments such as "an asset to the NHS" and "invaluable."

And last month the Champion reported how Southport mum Nicci Adkins, whose four–year–old daughter Daisy, has Diamond–Blackfan anaemia, couldn't have coped without the weekly visits of the CCNOT team. Daisy's condition means her body does not make any red blood cells and she has to visit the hospital every month for blood transfusions.

Now another reader has contacted us to say that the service is being axed.

The reader, who prefers to remain anonymous, said: "It's being taken away in West Lancashire. I think it's some sort of cost–cutting measure and the people of West Lancs will suffer.

"The service was really useful because it meant nurses came out and saw your child at their home and in a much better environment than having to take your child to the hospital. Now we have no choice."

However, health bosses have said that the objectives of the service had not been met.

Southport mum Nicci Adkins, who said she couldn't have coped wityhout the CCNOT, with daughter Daisy and baby Pixie

A spokesperson for NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), commented: "The Children's Community Nursing Outreach Team (CCNOT) was set up to reduce avoidable hospital admissions of children and young people and to facilitate early discharge from hospital.

"During the two years of the service running as a pilot, NHS West Lancashire CCG has not seen a significant enough reduction in the number of admissions. The plans, which were mutually agreed in advance, detailed that the service should have ultimately paid for itself by reducing the number of children requiring hospital admissions, but unfortunately this did not take place.

"After in–depth evaluation and due to a number of objectives not being met, we have therefore ceased the funding for CCNOT. We will continue to redesign and improve services to support children and young people in West Lancashire."

Bus changes under discussion

BOSSES at bus company Arriva are considering changes to its 395 service which currently runs from Wigan to Ormskirk via Skelmersdale.

A spokesperson for Arriva Merseyside said: "We are currently in discussion with Lancashire County Council and Merseytravel regarding possible changes to services in the Skelmersdale and Ormskirk area.

"The 395 service will not be withdrawn, but could potentially operate Skelmersdale to Wigan only, with a re–routed 310 covering the 395 route between Ormskirk and Skelmersdale with an increased frequency, maintaining the 15–minute service between Ormskirk and Skelmersdale.

"At this stage nothing has been confirmed."

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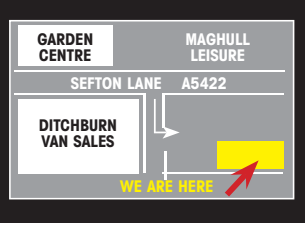

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Civic couple announce new mayoral charities

NEW Mayor of West Lancashire, Councillor Nikki Hennessy and her husband Paul have announced that they will raise money for the Lancashire Young Carers and the Alzheimer's Society in West Lancashire during their mayoral year.

A programme of fundraising events will now be planned over the next 12 months to raise funds for these worthy causes and Cllr. Hennessy, said: "Paul and I will be working with our charity committee to raise as much money as we can for our local charities.

"Our young carers are our unsung heroes. From a young age, they are faced with adult responsibilities and do a phenomenal job helping sick and vulnerable family members on top of doing domestic chores and household jobs."

Lancashire Young Carers is funded by Barnardo's, Lancashire County Council and local health authorities. The service is delivered by Barnardo's in West Lancs and works with children under the age of 18 who look after family members with difficulties ranging from physical and mental health issues to drug and alcohol addictions

Jenny Ashcroft, children's services manager for Barnardo's, said: "Our young carers are focussed on their caring responsibilities which can mean their school or college work is affected and they may not have enough time to see friends or someone to talk to. Barnardo's helps young carers find a balance so that they can lead as normal a life as possible."

The Central and West Lancs office of the Alzheimer's Society offers vital services to help people living with dementia and their families.

In 2014/15 it provided more than 300 people with dementia in West Lancashire, or their carers, with a one–to–one support visit.

The charity's dementia adviser for the borough gives people with dementia information about the help they can receive and the benefits they are entitled to.

There are peer support groups, while the popular monthly dementia cafes run by the charity in Ormskirk, Skelmersdale and Parbold offer people with dementia the chance to get out and enjoy fun activities such as singing and playing cards.

Kathleen Storton, services manager, said: "We are delighted to have been selected as one of the mayor's charities for the coming year. The funds raised will help us continue our work and help raise our profile and increase awareness of dementia."

MAYOR of West Lancashire, Councillor Nikki Hennesy,is pictured (right) following the announcement with officials of the charities and members of her charity committee

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Disabled driver slams hospital parking hassle

By **Danielle Thompson**

Ormskirk Hospital

A DISABLED driver has criticised Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust for making the process of paying and being refunded for parking at Ormskirk and Southport Hospitals "unnecessarily difficult and complicated."

James Hannis, from Burscough, recently parked in Ormskirk Hospital car park using his blue badge but was shocked when he found out that he would still have to pay for a ticket for parking, then go back into the hospital for a form to send off to have the money refunded.

He believes that blue badge holders should be allowed to park without a ticket if their badge is on display and they are parked in a disabled bay.

He told the Champion: "I parked with my blue badge and I had to buy a ticket then claim the money back – but it doesn't mention this long process on the signage!

"It's £80 if you are fined and a few months ago I forgot to put my blue badge on my windscreen so that was a huge fine.

"Why charge disabled drivers to park in the first place? And why make the whole process of paying then applying for a refund so difficult when you could just put your badge out and that'd be it?

"You also have to go back in to the hospital to get a form for a refund wasting more time parked up in the car park!

"If you are being treated for an ongoing medical condition it's stressful enough without really expensive parking as well as the hassle of sending off forms and waiting for refunds. They just shouldn't charge in the first place!"

A spokesman for Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust said: "We have a large number of designated spaces for blue badge holders which are near the main entrances of both hospitals.

"Everyone who uses our car parks is required to pay if they park for more than 20 minutes.

"There is a national scheme for people on low incomes who can have their travel costs reimbursed by the trust (this includes parking fees).

"More information on this can be found at www.southportandormskirk.nhs.uk/carparking.asp."

Nursery plan for former church

PLANS have been submitted to change a former Rufford church into a children's nursery.

Applicant Mrs G. Lloyd has submitted a planning application to West Lancashire Borough Council to change the use of the former Rufford Methodist Church on Brick Kiln Lane from a religious retreat into a nursery.

The building was listed for sale and sold on property website Rightmove for £250,000 in 2013.

Planning permission was previously granted on the property to allow a conversion into a residential home.

The council plan to make a decision on the application by Friday, June 26.

The property on Brick Kiln Lane

Treat in store for beer and pie lovers at rugby club

ORMSKIRK Rugby Club will be holding their Beer and Pie Festival this Friday and Saturday, June 12 and 13.

The annual event will open at the club's Green Lane base on Friday from 7 to 11pm and continue on Saturday from noon to midnight.

As well as a wide selection of beers and ciders, there will be hot food on sale throughout the day, including a range of fantastic locally–made pies.

Other attractions at the festival include the ever–popular Fancy Dress Rugby 7s competition, while the club's main sponsors, Halliwell Jones BMW, have organised a Pull a Mini competition with raffles and prizes.

This year's theme is dedicated to the forthcoming Rugby World Cup which will be hosted in the UK later in 2015 and the family–friendly event, to which all are welcome, will finish with live music provided by a band.

Chance for council tenants to have their say on housing services

COUNCIL tenants in West Lancashire are being given the chance to have their say on housing services in the borough.

The council's Tenants' Scrutiny Group is carrying out a review of how housing services deals with feedback from tenants

As part of the process tenants will asked how they feel about contacting the authority's housing teams if they have any difficulties with the service.

Surveys will be sent out this week to a number of tenants who will have around four weeks to respond.

The council hope the information will help housing teams improve the way they collect feedback from tenants and in turn help staff continue to provide the best possible service.

Councillor Jennifer Patterson, West Lancs Council's portfolio holder for housing and landlord services, said: "We are grateful to the Tenants' Scrutiny Group for carrying out this survey and we would encourage tenants to take part so we can get a true picture of how you feel. We are always very happy to hear from our tenants, whether they want to say something positive about our services or if they have been having difficulties."

The Tenants' Scrutiny Group is made up of tenants from across the borough who meet once a month to scrutinise housing services.

For more information on the survey ring the Tenant Involvement Team on 01695 585275 or visit www.westlancs.gov.uk/getinvolved.

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Council launches 'Call for sites' excercise

Public asked to pinpoint possible development plots

WEST Lancs Council planning chiefs are calling on residents of the borough to help them pinpoint possible sites for future development for housing or other uses.

The authority has launched a 'Call for Sites' exercise as part of its ongoing planning work and to keep its background information up–to–date.

Members of the public are beng invited to tell the council about land which could possibly be used for housing, traveller sites, business, retail and other commercial uses.

Anone who owns land or knows of a site which they consider would be suitable for development is asked to contact the council with the details.

The exercise will run from Thursday (June 11) until Friday, July 24.

Although the council believes it has already identified the majority of potential sites through its work on the current Local Plan and as a result of previous similar intiatives, the 'Call for Sites' exercise is being repeated to ensure nowhere has been missed.

Councillor John Hodson, West Lancs Council's portfolio holder for planning, said: "If there is land that you think should be considered for development please let the council know through this exercise by completing the official form.

"The process will also help us as we plan for the future and keep our Local Plan background information up to date.

"Of course, we must stress that putting a site forward in this exercise is not a guarantee that the council will subsequently allocate it or support its development in the future. All sites will need to be judged against relevant planning policies and other considerations."

Official 'call for sites' forms will be available from Thursday (June 11) on the council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/callforsites, from the council offices at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, or can be requested by phoning 01695 585284 or by sending an email to localplan@westlancs.gov.uk.

The council needs to receive details of sites no later than Friday, July 24 and these must be submitted on the official form.

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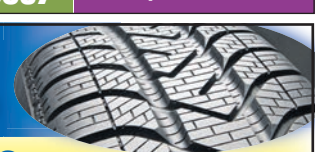

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Keri holds yogathon in memory of late nan

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

A YOGA teacher from West Lancashire is set to hold a three–hour yoga event to raise money for charity in memory of her late grandmother.

National charity, Alzheimer's Research UK, is hosting the first Yogathon4Alzheimer's event in honour of sufferers and their loved ones on International Yoga Day, Sunday, June 21, at the iconic Bush Hall in London.

And Keri Lincoln from Burscough will be the first person to host a 'sister' event to the fundraiser when she stages a similar function at the Camp And Furnace warehouse venue in Greenland Street, Liverpool a week later on Sunday, June 28

The 26–year–old is staging her event, also named Yogathon4Alzheimer's, to raise funds for the charity – and awareness of the condition – in memory of her nan, Jane, who passed away from Parkinson's disease and the condition dementia with Lewy bodies in 2013.

Dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB) is a type of dementia that shares symptoms with both Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease and could account for around 10 per cent of all cases of dementia.

Keri pictured at her university graduation ceremony with her beloved nan, Jane

Yoga lovers of all ages and abilities can opt to take part in one, two or all three hour–long sessions at the event, which will run from 2 to 5.30pm.

Keri will lead the first session, Primal Yoga Flow, from 2 to 3pm, followed by Vinyasa from 3.10pm to 4.10pm, then Core Strength Vinyasa from 4.20 to 5.20pm, led by additional instructors.

Participants are asked to donate £10 for each class and all proceeds will be donated to the charity.

Keri said: "I wanted to be involved with Yogathon4Alzheimer's as Alzheimer's Research UK is a charity very close to my heart. My nan was my idol and when she was diagnosed with dementia with Lewy bodies my family had no idea what to expect.

"We were shocked to find out how under–funded research into dementia is, which is why I believe events like Yogathon4Alzheimer's are so important as it's vital that more money is invested to help defeat dementia.

"I hope as many people as possible will sign up to the event to enjoy an afternoon of yoga while supporting Alzheimer's Research UK."

Jodie Vaughan, community fundraising manager at Alzheimer's Research UK, said: "We are very grateful to Keri for organising her Yogathon4Alzheimer's and wish her every success. It's thanks to the support of people like Keri that we're able to continue our crucial work."

For more details about taking part in Keri's event go to www.v1.bookwhen.com/tyoga.

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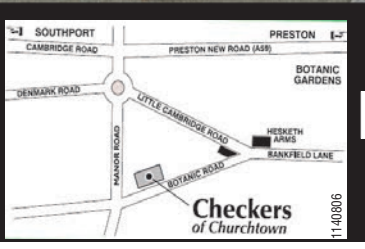

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Canal towpath project completed

£197,000 scheme to encourage tourists – and water voles!

THERE was a theatrical flavour to celebrations to signal the completion of a £197,000 project to improve the Leeds & Liverpool Canal towpath near to a local tourist attraction believed to have links with Shakespeare – with a couple dressed up in full Tudor costume as 'Lord and Lady Hesketh' to mark the occasion!

It's hoped that the work, carried out by the Canal & River Trust, will encourage tourism by providing an attractive walking and cycling route between Rufford railway station and the Grade 1 listed Rufford Old Hall, as well as improving links to Rufford Marina.

Dating from the 1500s, Rufford Old Hall was home to the Hesketh family until it was donated to the National Trust in 1936 and it's thought that a young Shakespeare performed there.

The scheme was funded by the VISIT Sefton and West Lancashire project, with additional funding from West Lancs Council and Lancashire County Council.

Councillor John Hodson, borough council portfolio holder for planning, said: "The works to improve the towpath make it a very pleasant way of getting to Rufford Old Hall on foot and we are pleased to have been able to support this project."

'Lord and Lady Hesketh' with Andy Rowett of Lancashire Environment Trust; Cllr. John Hodson and Nick Smith of the Canal & River Trust

The improved towpath runs for half–a–mile from Chapel Bridge on Station Road to Town Meadow Swing Bridge and will link up with other cycling and walking routes.

The towpath work included resurfacing, improving the drainage to get rid of puddles in wet weather and rebuilding a short length of the canal bank to prevent water escaping.

Enterprise manager for the Canal & River Trust, Nick Smith, said: "Boaters and visitors on the towpath received a real surprise when they were greeted by 'Lord and Lady Hesketh' in full period costume. This stretch of towpath was previously in very poor condition and these improvements were much needed."

Work has also taken place to encourage water voles with 220 metres of coir rolls pre–planted with aquatic plants being laid alongside the canal edge to act as cover and habitat for the protected species.

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Abbey Lodge staff and residents' relatives show off their Dementia Friends pin badges

Care home staff sign up to be Dementia Friends

STAFF and relatives of residents at a care home have joined the drive to increase public understanding of dementia and remove the stigma surrounding the disorder by becoming Dementia Friends.

A total of 21 participants attended a free one–hour training session by local Dementia Friends Champion, Joe Sherville at Abbey Wood Lodge home in County Road, Ormskirk which offers short and long–term residential care services supporting the frail and elderly and those with dementia and specialist care needs.

Run by the national Alzheimer's Society, the Dementia Friends programme is the charity's major initiative to change people's perceptions of dementia.

Currently there are estimated to be around 650,000 people in England living with dementia and the aim of the programme is to recruit four million Dementia Friends with the know–how to help people with dementia feel understood and included in their community.

Dementia Friends Champions are volunteers who talk to people about being a Dementia Friend in their communities.

Joe Sherville said: "The Dementia Friends session in Ormskirk was fantastic and the feedback from participants was really positive."

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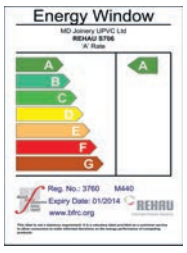

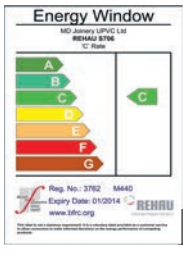

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Slimmers 'weigh in' with charity boost

Report by **Henry James**

BIG–hearted slimmers are swapping shedding lbs for raising £s for charity.

Members of West Lancashire Slimming World groups have collected more than 40 bags of clothes that they no longer need to raise money for Cancer Research UK as part of national fundraising campaign.

Consultants encouraged members and their friends and families to collect the clothes, shoes and accessories they no longer need to generate stock for the Ormskirk Cancer Research UK shop.

Team developer, Tina Whewell, said: "The Slimming World Clothes Throw event has been a fantastic success, I was overwhelmed by the amount of bags our members managed to collect.

"And it's not just members of the group who have cleared out their wardrobes, we've had great support from the whole community.

"Members of the West Lancs groups have lost an amazing 35,319 pounds between them since January. The Clothes Throw is a perfect opportunity for all of us to celebrate our success, inspire other people and raise money for charity at the same time

"One in two people are diagnosed with some form of cancer during their lifetime and being overweight can increase the chance of developing the disease.

"It is vital we spread the message that healthy eating, being physically active and losing weight by adopting healthy habits all help reduce the risk of developing cancer."

Clothes collected by Slimming World will be donated to Cancer Research UK shops across the country, with each bag raising up to £25 for the charity.

THE Slimming World Consultants with their charity donations

Lynn Lyon, a member from Skelmersdale who lost more than six stone and dropped from a dress size 24 to 12, said: "It felt so liberating to get rid of all my old clothes. – like saying goodbye to the old me!

"And it's great to know that the money raised will go towards research to find better ways to treat cancer."

And Sarah Colby, who runs the Cancer Research UK shop in Aughton Street, Ormskirk, said: "We were thrilled to receive such a huge donation of clothing from the local Slimming World group."

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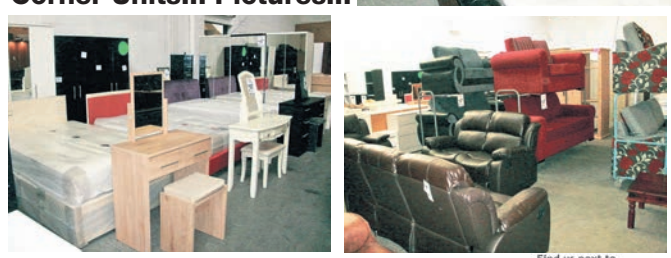

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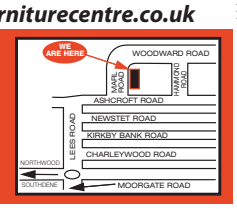

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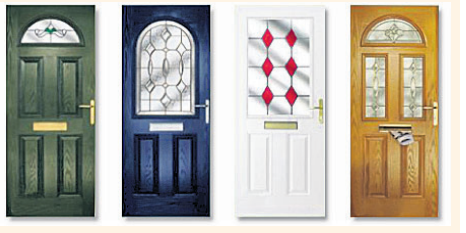

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

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Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport, PR9 0QA
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Landfills are bad but surely the decision–makers should save us from fracking

MANY of us are reeling from the news that the Whitemoss Landfill extension has been given the go–ahead, despite the strongly–expressed concerns of local people, health professionals and politicians.

But while we regain our balance on this outcome, the threat of fracking still looms over us.

The UK is in the happy position of having the US experience of fracking to help them evaluate.

What has the US experience been? Apparently there have been more than 1,000 documented cases of water contamination next to areas of gas drilling.

Methane gas and toxic chemicals leach from the system and contaminate nearby groundwater. Not surprisingly, cases of sensory, respiratory and neurological damage due to ingested contaminated water have resulted.

Surely the best way to help an already overburdened NHS is to keep the population as poison–free as possible. Risking contamination of ground water through fracking is hardly the way to do this.

There are many compelling reasons to fear fracking, not least the danger of increased seismic activity, but, just on the issue of contamination to water alone, should our decision makers not say a big NO to fracking?

Phil Larkin,
Skelmersdale

There's a big difference between horse dung and dog muck

I HAVE just read the letter from Mr Lonsdale (June 3) regarding horse dung on the pavement left by police horses. I find it incredible that he does not know the difference between horse and dog foul!

First of all, whilst it may look unsightly, it is biodegradable as a horse's staple diet is hay and, of course, it is excellent manure for roses which is why most of us buy it from the farms.

Dog foul is, however, not biodegradable as they are meat eaters. It is not only full of bacteria but is extremely harmful to children.

Having had dogs all my life, I find it utterly irresponsible of some dog owners who allow their dog to foul on the pavement and leave it there for pedestrians to tread on.

What would Mr Lonsdale prefer – a police officer to dismount the horse and use a bucket and spade to clear up the mess?

As Southport road is a busy A–class road, the police, for safety reasons have used the pavement. I have witnessed a horse being knocked down by a driver in a hurry and it is not a pleasant sight.

As it is unlawful to allow a dog to foul, then I would agree, the police would be quite within the law to issue a fine.

Sandra Evans,
by email

It's good for your plants...

IN response to the letter published on June 3 about police horse droppings on Southport Road.

Surely horses walk in the road, not on the pavement.

And there is a difference between horse muck and dog muck – one is good for your plants and the other makes kids go blind.

Walter, you just come across as anti–police.

Pamela Kircher,
by email

PICTURE of the week

www.champnews.com/pixonline

Nearly 2,000 women and children set off from Southport's Princess Park last Sunday on the 5k and 10k Race for Life to raise funds for Cancer Research UK. Picture by Martyn Snape. Code: 1081309.

Drivers beware!

IF you are thinking of visiting the Market Way car park in Ormskirk, one third of the parking bays are out of use due to resurfacing work and two other bays are filled with machinery and materials.

On May 27th I parked behind the back of the post office, close to the bollards, leaving plenty of room for access and egress for motorists parked in bays to my left.

This area has been used by motorists to park for years, there are no notices in this area, yellow lines or hashed area.

When I returned to my car I had been given a PCN. At the time there were at least 12 cars parked illegally behind Barclays bank, no sign of PCN on them!

I have challenged this but I thought that other motorists need to be made aware.

Viv Parkinson,
by email

Scoundrels show was just Champion!

JUST a quick thank–you from myself and my wife for the tickets we won via, The Champion, to see Dirty Rotten Scoundrels in Manchester.

Suffice to say it was a tremendous show which we both enjoyed immensely.

Patrick and Vanessa White,
Burscough

Chance to get it off your chest...

We want to hear your views

IF you've got a point of view about a topic of local or national interest and want to 'get it off your chest', we want to hear from you.

Letters to the editor should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words long, and should include the name, address and a contact telephone number, or email address, of the sender for the purpose of clarification, although not necessarily for publication.

Submissions, marked 'Letters to the editor', can be posted or handed in to Champion Newspapers, Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA or sent via email to editorial@champnews.com.

Correspondents should also note that the editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

Decision to keep tip open shows local people don't matter to this government

SO the Tories won the election, God help us.

For the past six months or more they have been telling us that local councils should rule themselves.

Well, for the past 12 months the people of Skelmersdale and the nearby surrounding area have been fighting to have a local toxic tip closed and both West Lancs Borough Council and the county council said it should be closed.

But what happened once the election was over? The Tories said the toxic tip should remain open for a further 25 years.

They're saying the people of Skelmersdale do not matter.

If they can't keep their word on something as important as this I feel sorry for the young kids growing up here and for the future of this place.

Mr D. Carter,
Digmoor

Whitemoss report has all the answers

RE: Whitemoss landfill site, reading through the comprehensive report by the secretary of state, it covers all the different points raised and answers them.

This facility is not only a local one, but also a national one of some importance.

And being on an old colliery site, it is not destroying any green belt, but will enhance it when this work is finished as it will become a nature reserve and like other sites across the country it will be managed in this case with the drainage water.

Stephen Bennett,
Ashurst

Host of attractions lined up for Heritage Weekend

By Henry James

A HORSE–drawn delivery carriage will be among the attractions at this year's Burscough Heritage Weekend to be held on Saturday and Sunday, June 27 and 28.

The event is being co–organised by Burscough Wharf, The Burscough Heritage Group and H&R Ainscough Barge Restoration Project Group and will be staged at the wharf and across the canal in the Old Stables Yard on Mill Lane.

Other attractions being lined–up include free children's rides, traditional craft demonstrations and live music provided by Skelmersdale Prize Band and folk singer Mark Dowding.

In addition there will be guided canal history walks and talks, photographic and vintage vehicle displays and a family treasure hunt on the Sunday.

Vintage bus services will operate from Ormskirk to Burscough Wharf at half–hourly interval throughout both days, as well as horse and carriage rides around the village.

Entertainers at a previous Heritage Weekend

Burscough Wharf site manager, Ray Eckersley, said: "Lots of work goes into planning the heritage weekends and we are excited that this year the event will take place on both sides of the canal.

"The range of activities and entertainment means there will be something for everyone. Whether you're local or a visitor to the area, we're inviting people to come along and experience Burscough's fascinating heritage.

"We are particularly pleased to welcome E. H. Booth's horse–drawn delivery carriage to this year's displays in advance of their new store opening in Burscough."

Volunteers from Burscough Heritage Group in period costume will guide visitors from Burscough Wharf on their history walks and members of the the H&R Ainscough's Barge Resoration Group will welcome visitors to view their two 1930s working barges, Ambush and Viktoria, historically used to carry imported grain to Burscough and Parbold mills.

Also visiting will be a 1960s iron dredging boat.

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Cloudy2Clear service the Crosby, Litherland, Aintree, Maghull, Walton, Anfield, Netherton, Bootle, Formby, Ormskirk and Skelmersdale areas & Paul is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success.*'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'*

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Gardens open to public in aid of caring charities

By Louisa Austin

TWO Burscough gardens will be opening to the public this weekend as part of the National Garden Scheme which raises money for charity.

Last year the scheme raised more than £2.6m for causes including Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie and Help the Hospices.

This will be the 12th year that the gardens of neighbours Sandra and Peter Curl and Prue and Barry Cooper at numbers 79 and 81 Crabtree Lane respectively have opened to the public.

Last year more than 650 people visited, raising a total of £4,000 for charity, while in total more than 5,000 visitors have viewed the two gardens, raising about £28,000.

The gardens will be open on Sunday (June 14) from 11am to 4pm. Refreshments, supplied by Burscough Methodist Church and Woodlands Animal Sanctuary, will be on sale and there will also plant sales. The plants have all been grown in the gardens so can be seen in their natural setting.

A section of Sandra and Peter Curl's Burscough garden which will be open to the public on Sunday

Sandra and Peter's garden at no. 79 is three–quarters of an acre and is split into different 'themed rooms.'

It has an herbaceous plants area which will be full of Iris Sibirica, while the waterfall, new in 2014, is now fully established.

A gravel garden, surrounded by a beech hedge, also completed last year, is full of Mediterranean plants, while additional areas include a hot autumn bed, woodland area, hosta and fern walk, alpine beds and two ponds.

Prue and Barry's garden at no. 81 is smaller but full of plants and has water features, an old–fashioned rockery, vine and rose–covered pergola, a central gazebo, herbaceous plants, arches with clematis and roses.

For any further details or to arrange private visits, either as a group or individuals, contact Peter Curl on 01704 893713 or email peter.curl@btinternet.com.

The gardens will be open again later in the summer on Sunday, July 12.

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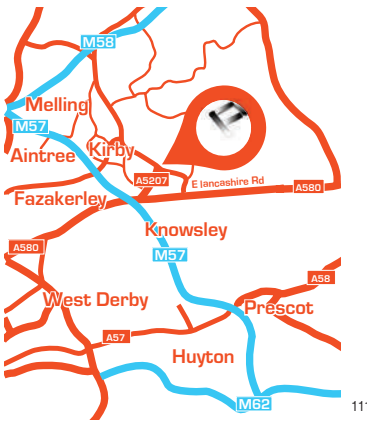

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Call to 'step out' for stroke charity

Participants at the start of last year's Step out for Stroke walk at Coronation Park

ORMSKIRK residents are being urged to put their best foot forward for a charity in aid of stroke survivors by taking part in the local version of a national sponsored walk event.

The Step out for Stroke sponsored walks are around a mile long and are held all over the country to raise money for The Stroke Association, a charity which supports stroke survivors directly as well as their families and carers, by campaigning to improve stroke care and fund research to develop new treatments and ways of preventing stroke.

This year's Ormskirk Step Out for Stroke will start at 11am at Coronation Park on Tuesday, June 23.

Former Olympic swimming silver medallist and two–times Commonwealth gold medallist Sharron Davies is championing the Step out for Stroke campaign.

The 52–year–old said: "Stroke has affected my family so I've seen first–hand just how devastating its effects can be.

"Each walk is wheelchair–accessible and suitable for any level of walking ability. Participants can walk at their own pace, in their own time. Ultimately, Step out for Stroke celebrates the brave steps in a stroke survivor's recovery.

"Please join me and sign up for a Step out for Stroke event. Your support will help the Stroke Association to be there every step of the way for those whose lives have been touched by stroke."

Sian Thomas, regional fundraiser at the Stroke Association, added: "Step out for Stroke is a fun walk that everyone can be part of, no matter what your age or fitness level. It's the perfect event to take part in alongside friends and family. Every step makes a difference, and we want Step out for Stroke 2015 to be our biggest year yet.

"Join us in Ormskirk to help even more stroke survivors take their first steps on the road to recovery and together we can conquer stroke."

'Flushed' with show success!

Ruth Melling (left) and friends from Burscough U3A at the Craft Fair Code1081240

A CHARITY event organised by a West Lancs commuity group in aid of some of the world's poorest communities raised nearly £500.

Members of the Burscough branch of the University of the Third Age (U3A) teamed up with Burscough Methodist Church parishioners to hold the Burscough Arts and Crafts Show fundraiser at the church in Orrell Lane on Friday, June 5 to raise money for the Toilet Twinning initiative.

First set up five years ago, Toilet Twinning is a quirky way to solve a serious problem and save lives by providing people in the world's poorest communities with a decent toilet, clean water and the information they need to stay healthy and break free of the poverty trap.

For just £60, you can 'twin' your loo with a latrine in a country of your choosing – or for £240, you can twin with a school block.

Donations are used by Tearfund, a UK Christian relief and development agency which works in more than 50 countries, to provide clean water, basic sanitation and hygiene education.

In return, the charity will send the group a special Toilet Twinned Town framed certificate in recognition of their achievement, which will go on display at the church.

Ruth Melling of Burscough U3A, said: "It went really well and we raised £480. It was a lovely day with a great atmosphere and we raised enough to pay for full toilet blocks for two schools, which is much better that we hoped for.

"We were delighted with the turn–out and would like to thank all the generous people in our community who helped to make a difference."

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Music society's summer concert date

ORMSKIRK Music Society are holding their Austrian–themed summer concert, Vienna Plus, on Saturday, June 27 at Ormskirk School, Wigan Road, starting at 7.30pm.

Clare Williams from the society said: "Highlights include a performance by the choir of the beautiful song, Vilia, from Lehar's Merry Widow, some of Johann Strauss's best–loved waltzes, including the Blue Danube, and a selection from the Sound of Music."

Tickets, priced £9 for adults and £4 for children, will be available on the door or ordered from Clare on 01925 221301.

Campaign to recruit more foster carers

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

LANCASHIRE County Council and national charity The Fostering Network are teaming up to urge residents in West Lancs to consider giving a home to a child.

Foster Care Fortnight, which runs until Sunday (June 14) aims to raise awareness of the need to recruit more foster carers.

With record numbers of children coming into local authority care, there is a real need to recruit more carers across the borough to help look after the 1,600 children and young people who need a safe and stable home.

Lancashire's cabinet member for children, young people and school, County Councillor Matthew Tomlinson said: "This year's Foster Care Fortnight with a theme of 'make a connection', asks people to talk about what fostering means to them, their family, and their friends. It is also about busting myths about fostering and focusing on the skills and experience needed to become a foster carer and to provide a loving home for vulnerable children.

"For the vast majority of children in Lancashire, a foster home can provide the stability and support needed to secure a better future. There is a particular need for foster carers to look after older children and teenagers, and sibling groups who we like to keep together.

"There are many myths about who can become a foster carer, but what really matters is that someone has the commitment, skills and ability to look after children separated from their own families, and to offer them a stable and secure home. If you have a spare room, and the skills to make a positive change to the lives of children and young people, consider fostering for us."

Jackie Sanders, director of The Fostering Network, added: "As each year passes, we see more and more children coming into care. We need people who can open their heart, and their homes, to vulnerable children and young people who need support in reaching their full potential.

"A good foster carer will believe in the ambition of the children in their care in the same way they'd believe in the ambition of their own family members. A childhood is too short to waste, and foster carers can help those who haven't had the best start begin to enjoy their life and grow into the adults that they want to be."

For details of how to can find out more about fostering from Lancashire County Council visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/fostering/events or speak to the fostering team on 0800 195 1183.

Surprises in store at Newburgh Fair

THE Four Seasons is the theme of this year's Newburgh Fair this year – with organisers promising some surprise additions.

There will be a number of events in the week leading up to the fair on Saturday, June 20 when the procession will start at midday from the school in Back Lane.

This will be followed by entertainment on the field and there will be stalls both inside and outside the marquee – including the famous WI cake stall (get there quickly to find any left!) – along with refreshments and bar.

The annual craft show and Newburgh Morris Dancers will add to the atmosphere of the afternoon.

On Saturday evening the marquee will be transformed into a winter wonderland for the ball.

Tickets sell out quickly for the ball, to reserve yours ring Anna on 07957 207792. This year it's 'bring your own' food and drink or you can buy from the food van in the field.

On Tuesday, June 16 Douglas Valley Lions will stage their bingo night from 7.30pm; on Thursday, June 18 it's Ladies Night with hot food, bar and dancing to Steve Charles Disco; and on Friday evening it's family night with Let Newburgh Entertain You.

For more details of events get in touch with Hazel on 07801 427856 or or email her at hazelflight@yahoo.co.uk.

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Townsfolk urged to have a party for charity

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

RESIDENTS in Ormskirk are being urged to have a party to raise funds for a charity which provides care and support to people living with a terminal illness.

Sophie Yates, Marie Curie community fundraiser assistant for Lancashire, is calling on people to get together with family and friends to join in the charity's Blooming Great Tea Party project between June 20 and 29.

All money raised from the the Booming Great Tea Party will help Marie Curie nurses to care for more people living with a terminal illness in their own homes in Ormskirk and the surrounding areas.

Sophie Yates said: "Holding your own Blooming Great Tea Party is really easy to do. Whether you hold it at home, at work or somewhere locally, it's a fun way to get together with friends and support your local Marie Curie Nurses and people living with a terminal illness."

Last year across the UK the Blooming Great Tea Party for Marie Curie raised £667,000, which pays for 33,350 hours of vital nursing care.

For more information and to sign up for a free fundraising pack to host your own Blooming Great Tea Party, visit www.mariecurie.org.uk/teatime or call 0845 052 4184.

Sophie Yates is urging Ormskirk residents to host their own Blooming Great Tea Party for charity

Monthly health and wellbeing events to be held in Ormskirk

HEALTH and Wellbeing events are to be held on the last Saturday of each month in Ormskirk.

The initiatve is being supported by Help Direct, which provides free local support for adults in West lancashire as well as Lancaster and Chorley.

The events will be held at Age UK in Moorgate from 12.30 to 5pm and will include 'taster' sessions of a range of therapies, including massage, reiki, reflexology, acupuncture, facials, sound healing, crystal therapy and yoga.

Anyone wanting to book a therapy session can contact Jessica on 07971 211122 or email jessicasawyer7@gmail.com.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Outstanding teachers on the rise in Merseyside

The future of teaching in Sefton and Merseyside looks brighter thanks to a group of primary and secondary schools who have been brought together by the Associated Merseyside Partnership (AMP), led by Deyes High School to offer School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT).

AMP's 2014-15 trainees at a collaborative training session at Deyes High School.

This programme offers graduates who wish to train as teachers an enriched opportunity of developing teaching skills within the school environment. Last year's cohort of trainee teachers achieved 100% employment in the teaching profession, with 80% gaining employment within the cluster of schools. Pauline Treanor, Head of AMP said, *"AMP allows us to train and empower future outstanding teachers. We recruit the highest quality of graduates, ensuring commitment to the teaching profession and identifying future leaders of education. This school led route into teaching aims to attract talented people, including career changers, to apply for a more personalised programme supported by existing quality teachers."*

Students from Deyes High School, the Associated Merseyside Partnership's lead school.

AMP's School Direct programme allows individuals to learn alongside some of the best teachers working in our classrooms today. By offering bursaries of up to £25,000 in key subjects, together with outstanding training and development, schools are attracting the very best new teachers. Dr Catherine Perkins, successfully completed the School Direct course last year. Catherine now teaches full time at Deyes High and has been recently promoted to Learning Manager for Chemistry. She commented, *"This was a fantastic opportunity to gain classroom experience, working under the guidance of enthusiastic, dedicated teachers."*

Trainees are guaranteed a place in a good or outstanding school and receive coaching and support from outstanding practitioners. AMP also has the invaluable endorsement and support of Liverpool Hope University, which is one of the country's leading universities for teacher training.

Alison Brady, Director of Teacher Training at AMP said: *"If you want to inspire local children to fulfil their potential then we want to hear from you. We are looking for applications from people who have the potential to be outstanding teachers in both primary and secondary schools. It is a great way to qualify to become a teacher and it is not too late to apply for a September start".*

AMP still has limited places available for entry in September 2015. If a career in teaching is one of your long term goals or if your experience of working with young people has sparked an interest and desire to become a teacher, then we'd like to hear from you. Come and see us at our Train to Teach event on Monday 22nd June, register online at **www.traintoteach.eventbrite.co.uk.** For further information visit **www.deyeshigh.co.uk** or contact us on **teacher training@deyeshigh.co.uk** or **0151 526 3814.**

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Hospital hosts nurse recruitment event

ORMSKIRK Hospital is hosting a recruitment event for nurses interested in working at Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust.

This will be held at the hospital's education centre today (Wednesday, June 10) from 4 to 8pm and follows a successful similar event at Southport Hospital last month at which more than a dozen nurses were offered posts.

The day provides an opportunity for both newly–qualified and experienced nurses to meet other nurses and team members, and discover what opportunities are available.

Nurses wanting to return to practice are also welcome. There are vacancies available in both hospital and community nursing and across all specialties.

Nurses who want an informal interview on the day should bring along identification.

There will also be a chance for tours around the hospital and representatives will be on hand from nurse education to explain how the trust supports nurses in their career development.

Light refreshments will be available.

Mere 'duckling nursery' open at weekends

THE popular 'duckling nursery' at Martin Mere Wetland Centre will be open to the public between noon and 3pm every weekend from now until Sunday, July 19.

Visitors to the Burscough reserve will have the opportunity to learn all about the egg–to–duckling process.

Ducklings that are over two weeks old are kept in the nursery where there is a heat lamp, pond and food to ensure that they are safe and warm.

As visitors walk around the nursery, they can talk to staff, read information about the birds and how they hatch and see what they will grow up to look like.

Ducklings at Martin Mere

Nick Brooks, centre manager at WWT Martin Mere, said: "The duckling nursery is a fantastic attraction that brings a lot of smiles to the faces of both children and adults alike.

"This is a fantastic opportunity to see these brilliant birds grow from tiny ducklings to full–sized birds in our duckling nursery over the next seven weeks."

The Mere's award–winning canoe and boat safari is all open at the weekend with the chance to enjoy a relaxing boat tour of the centre or paddle their own way around the reedbeds.

Visitors can also watch the centre's dedicated volunteers conduct otter feeds at 11.30am and 2.30pm, try their hands at pond dipping between 11am and 12.30pm and 1.30 and 3pm or tackle craft–making between 1 and 4pm.

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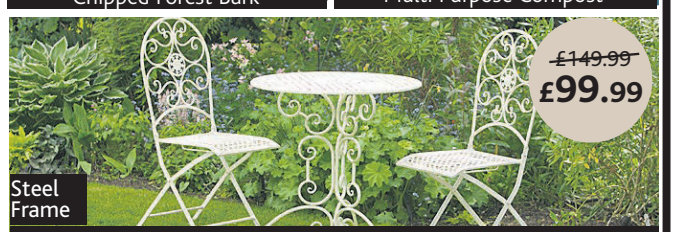

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Borough in top 20 of charity's 'home threat hotspots' list

Report by **Henry James**

NEW figures released by housing charity Shelter have revealed that one in 117 people in West Lancashire were under threat or repossession or eviction in the last year.

In an analysis of statistics from the Ministry of Justice, the charity identified how many people are at risk of eviction and repossession, as well as the 'home threat hotspots' across the North West where people are most likely to face the risk of losing their home.

Manchester topped the home threat hotspots in the North West with one in every 66 homes under threat of eviction or repossession. West Lancashire was 11th.

Also according to Shelter, 1,200 people in the North West were put at risk of losing their home every week in the last year.

And they say the these figures are borne out by the number of people visiting the Shelter website looking for advice on repossession and eviction, with 360,000 unique visits in the last year alone.

Nadeem Khan, helpline adviser for Shelter, said: "We're hearing from thousands of people who have suffered in silence while they struggle to keep up with their rent or mortgage and come to us in desperation when the court papers finally land on their doormat.

"It's natural to feel helpless in the face of mounting bills but getting expert advice as soon as you start having trouble with housing payments can really help you see the light at the end of the tunnel, and keep the threat of losing your home at bay."

Affordable housing shortage

Alison Mohammed, Shelter's director of services, said: "These staggering figures show just how many people are fighting to keep their families in their homes, after dealing with the double blow of welfare cuts and a drastic shortage of affordable housing.

"We're doing everything we can to give advice and support to anyone who faces losing the roof over their heads but the government must also play its part by putting a stop to further cuts to the safety net which helps ordinary families stay in their homes."

Shelter helps four million people a year fight bad housing and homelessness through its online, helpline and face–to–face services. More information is available at shelter.org.uk/advice or by calling the helpline on 0808 800 4444.

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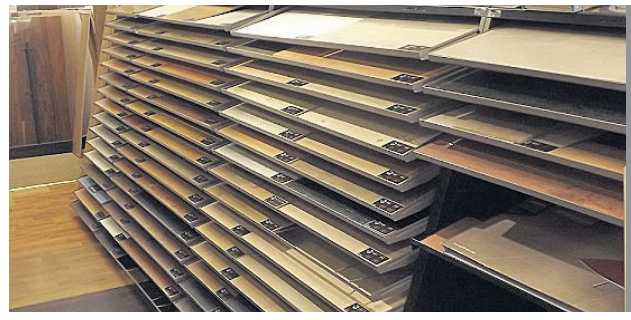

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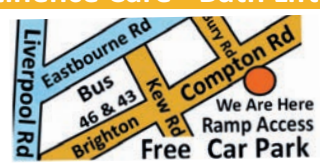

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What would you do in an emergency?

WHAT would be your response if confronted with a sudden emergency? Particularly if it were life–threatening, that is threatening to your life?

This train of thought was occasioned not by any real emergency, but by a totally make–believe one – and even that would hardly have threatened my life anyway.

It all came to mind as I walked Tina and Cinders from Town Green station back to Maghull, pausing on the seat at Robbins Island for the dogs to enjoy a couple of biscuits and me to have a contemplative smoke.

A young woman out for a ride – using the pavement but since there is a cycleway just on the other side of the roundabout I'll let her off – was scooting her bike across the road and for some reason I simply wondered what I would do if she missed her footing as she tried to remount and came a cropper as a result.

And unhappily the answer I came back with was not a lot.

What could I do, encumbered with two largish canines and no mobile phone? Certainly I couldn't just abandon them to play among the traffic along Northway, and equally certainly I could be of little assistance to her if I kept hold of their leads.

So it was with a small mental shrug that I continued homewards, but this totally insignificant thought grew as we walked.

What would I do if confronted with a with a gun–waving thug as I walked into my paper shop to pay my weekly bill? Would I be a 'have a go' hero, or would self–preservation win the day and I make myself as small and insignificant as possible? I honestly have no idea.

I'm pretty sure I would step in and try to rescue a small child (or even an adult) being attacked by a ferocious dog. But what if they were being attacked by three or four yobs? Again, I don't know. Reason would say go to get help because there's little point in two of us being beaten up – but self–worth would certainly urge me to wade in.

Or what about if I had been on the deck of the sinking Titanic? What action would I have taken?

Actually, if I had thought of it, I reckon I could emulate the ship's baker, drink most of a bottle of Scotch and simply walk into the ocean off the stern of the vessel as it took its final plunge and just hope for the best.

And had I been there on that fateful night, and had I completed this little escapade, I hope I could later think of a reply as apt as that given by second officer Charles Lightoller when asked at the British Titanic enquiry how he had left the ship.

"I didn't leave the ship – the ship left me," he said. He too had been washed into the water off the boat–deck as the vessel sank. And he was absolutely sober too.

Perhaps I would be more brave than I give myself credit for. Though I am by nature loath to engage in really unpleasant argument, if pushed, I can hold my own with the best and nastiest of them.

Trouble is of course that I (and I would imagine anybody else) sincerely hope that nothing so terrible as a sinking liner or an armed hold–up ever comes my way for me to find out.

Young ladies falling of their bikes is quite enough for me.

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Public invited to take part in Edge Hill 'App–a–thon' world record bid

COMPUTER buffs at Edge Hill University are inviting members of the local community to join them in an 'App–a–thon' world record attempt on saturday (June 13).

The university's department of computing is hosting the event at the Ormskirk campus as part of a bid to enter Guinness Book of World Records for the largest number of people simultaneously learning to code an android app.

Specialist group, BCS (British Computer Sciences) Women, are hosting the App–a–thon all over the UK to encourage more young people, especailly girls, to consider a future career in IT.

Dr Ella Pereira, reader in computing at Edge Hill, will teach participants how to build android apps during talks, activities and hands–on coding sessions aimed at anyone from the age of 10 years upwards.

She said: "Edge Hill's App–a–thon challenge offers a really exciting way for people of all ages in the local community to try their hand at coding. You'll leave the day with apps you've built, MIT AppInventor installed on your own laptop to play around with once you get home, and the knowledge of how to build android apps."

Gillian Arnold, chair of BCSWomen said: "Within the IT profession, there is a real skills shortage in the UK that we need to address now. The BCSWomen App–a–thon event is a great way for lots of people to learn how to code and at the same time, engage with those who are considering a career in IT and give every generation an opportunity to try their hand at coding.

"It's imperative that we encourage more women to enter the IT profession."

Students in Edge Hill University's department of computing

Opportunity knocks for talented youngsters

Report by **Henry James**

TALENTED young performers are being offered the chance to strut their stuff on the stage of one of the North West's biggest and most prestigious entertainment venues.

Six young boys are being sought to star alongside X–Factor winner Joe McElderry when he leads the cast of rocky musical, Tommy at the Blackpool Opera House.

Auditions will take place in July to fill the role of Tommy aged four and aged 10 and it is essential the youngsters have dark hair and a resemblance to Joe.

And later in the year further auditions will be held to find male and female adults and children to join the cast of A Christmas Carol starring Paul Nicholas as Scrooge.

Singer/actor Nicholas, probably best known for the 1980s TV sitcom Just Good Friends, who will also direct the new production of The Who's classic rock opera, believes this is a great opportunity for budding theatre stars to gain valuable experience.

He said: "I'm delighted we're holding open auditions for both of these shows. This is an amazing opportunity for youngsters and adults to perform on the UK's largest theatre stage and feel first–hand what it's like to be involved in a live theatre production.

"History tells us there is fantastic talent in Lancashire so I really do hope we are inundated.

"The role of young Tommy is such an important one in the show so it really is quite something to be able to cast local youngsters in this role. We will then be looking later in the year for a host of adults and children to be part of A Christmas Carol so this is going to a very difficult but also very enjoyable process."

Six boys are required to play Tommy and must have acting and singing experience. The older boys must also have gymnastic experience.

Three six or seven–year–olds will play the four–year–old Tommy, while three 10 to 15–year–olds are required to play Tommy aged 10.

Auditions will be held at the Winter Gardens Blackpool on Thursday, July 9 and anyone wishing to be considered should send a photo of themselves along with details of previous experience to casting@wintergardensblackpool.co.uk

Tommy will run from Friday, September 11 to Saturday, September 26 and A Christmas Carol opens on Friday, December 4 until Sunday, January 3

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Memories are made of this...

The special gathering at Stocks Hall

PEOPLE living at Stocks Hall Residential Home in Ormskirk were treated to a special gathering to mark Dementia Awareness Week.

The activities team at the home successfully hosted a wedding reminiscence day in a bid to trigger happy memories and have fun.

The team prepared a cake, decorated the room, arranged a 'bride' and 'groom' and even threw a bouquet, while people living at the home took part as guests.

Those who attended were able to dress up and enjoy treats, including cake and a drop of fizz.

Home manager, Gel Ball, said: "We wanted to do something unique for Dementia Awareness Week. We strive to continually enhance the quality of life for everyone who lives with us, whilst emphasising the importance of social interaction for those with dementia."

The group fondly shared stories and memories from years gone by, prompting conversations on how things have changed through the decades.

Gel added: "We would like to thank our wonderful staff, the bride and groom, Sophie and Brenda,and the British Heart Foundation in Ormskirk who kindly loaned us the wedding dress for the occasion."

Annual Dementia Awareness Week is a chance to fundraise for and raise awareness of dementia.

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Students help plan social enterprise group's celebrations

• LEFT: Edge Hill students Sam Mountford, Saskia McAdam and Katie Dolan are pictured working on the project with Anna Owens and Sue Temple–Fielding from the Knowsley Development Trust.

Report by
Danielle Thompson

MARKETING students at Edge Hill University are helping officials of an award–winning social enterprise to plan their 25th anniversary celebrations later this year.

As part of the marketing facility's business–based learning programme, the undergraduates are working with Knowsley Development Trust on an events campaign to highlight the organisation's key achievements over the past quarter of a century.

Knowsley Development Trust is unusual because it ploughs back all the profits from its North Mersey Business Centre headquarters into regeneration and community projects in the local Knowsley area.

The success of the development trust's work was recognised recently when it received the Queen's Award for Sustainable Development for a second time.

The brief given to the Edge Hill students was to develop a programme of high–impact events including a centrepiece celebration evening for several hundred guests.

Other elements of the campaign could include an exhibition on the organisation's history and staging a series of open days at the business centre site.

The students have come up with some innovative ideas, including holding the main event in a disused World War Two bunker in Kirkby which the development trust is currently redeveloping for business use.

Knowsley Enterprise Academy projects manager, Sue Temple–Fielding, who co–ordinated the initiative with Edge Hill, commented: "The students are a great group of young people and it's been a pleasure to work with them on this project.

Beneficial

"They've put forward some excellent ideas and we're now evaluating their proposals before making a final decision on the format of our celebrations in the autumn."

Student Sam Mountford commented: "Working on this project has helped us all to realise the full extent of the working world, and provided us with many new skills that will be beneficial to us in the future."

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Report raises concerns over treatment of LGBT patients in county

A QUARTER of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans–gender patients in Lancashire believe that their sexual orientation has affected the way they are treated by healthcare professionals, according to a report.

The report, published by Healthwatch Lancashire, entitled 'Lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans–gender people's experiences when accessing routine healthcare' has been presented to lead clinicians within the clinical commissioning groups in the county and they will continue to share the results of the study with health and social care professionals.

Research conducted by Lancashire Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans–gender (LGBT) which assessed the barriers 116 members of the LGBT community in Lancashire experienced when accessing routine healthcare, has been published in the report which is available on the Healthwatch Lancashire website.

Gill Brown, Healthwatch Lancashire's chief executive, said: "There is concerning evidence from the study and it is important that these views are listened to and action is taken to ensure lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender men and women receive the quality of care they deserve."

Dr. Lewis Turner, project manager at Lancashire LGBT, said: "Our research demonstrates that much work still needs to be done in reducing the barriers that LGB&T people experience when accessing routine healthcare."

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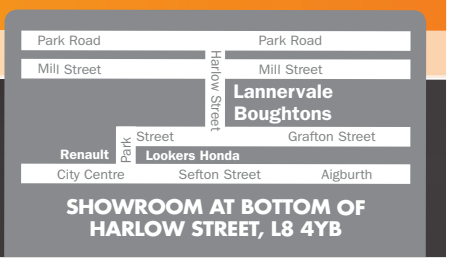

SHOWROOM AT BOTTOM OF HARLOW STREET, L8 4YB

KGV students Eleanor Barton and Charlie Hayward along with Principal Adele Wills, MP John Pugh and West Lancs deputy Mayor Coun Liz Savage and Consort Coun Noel Delaney officially open the new Creative Arts Building

£4m hub opened at KGV

by **Ollie Cowan**

A £4 million creative arts hub has finally been opened at a college attended by students from West Lancashire.

Southport MP John Pugh and Deputy Mayor of West Lancashire, Councillor Liz Savage, joined staff and students at King George V College in the resort for the grand opening of the college's new arts space on Saturday, June 6.

As part of the opening celebrations, the college in Scarisbrick New Road also hosted its annual summer festival, which featured an exhibition of work by the college's art and design students, a market fair, and fun activities for families.

The new arts space will now be the home of creative arts subjects, and will also accommodate other A–Level students.

The building will provide some of the best facilities in the area, including a lecture theatre for up to 120 people, which can also be used as a performance space.

Principal Adele Wills said: "The new building is fantastic and demonstrates how committed the college is to providing the very best facilities for its students and staff. It's a huge space, and provides spacious and bright teaching areas, and a first class environment in which to learn and to teach.

"The building will house the music and music technology departments, which includes individual and group practice rooms, a recording studio and a control room.

"Film and media students will have a new film studio, while the lecture theatre can also be used as a cinema space. Current and future students will reap the benefits."

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The girls from Ormskirk School

Young athletes in county finals

ATHLETES from Ormskirk School and Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Engineering College in Skelmersdale are the latest to secure their place in this year's SPAR Lancashire School Games County Finals.

The girls from Ormskirk School and boys from Our Lady Queen of Peace emerged triumphant against pupils from six other schools in the borough to earn the right to represent West Lancashire in the finals to be held at Stanley Park in Blackpool on Tuesday, June 30.

Now in its ninth year, the Lancashire School Games is the biggest school games scheme in the county and aims to give every child the opportunity to participate in competitive sport including gymnastics, handball, football, netball, rounders, athletics, tennis and tag rugby.

The event is sponsored by James Hall & Company Ltd., SPAR distributors for the North of England.

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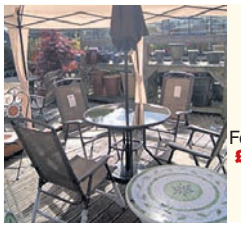

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Shoppers' chance to 'bag' a boost for wildlife charity

Supermarket chain teams up with RSPB in schools project

Money raised by the scheme will support school garden projects

By **Danielle Thompson**

CUSTOMERS who buy single–use carriers bags when shopping at branches of a national supermarket chain will be helping a bird, wildlife and countryside charity.

Discount retailer Aldi, which has a store in Ormskirk, will donate all profits generated from single–use carrier bag sales in England and Wales from July 2015 to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, for the next three years.

Aldi currently charges 3p for a single–use carrier bag but this will increase to 5p next month when the scheme comes into force.

Money raised through the three–year partnership will allow Aldi and the RSPB to work together to connect more than half–a–million children to nature.

As part of its 25th anniversary celebrations, Aldi, in partnership with the RSPB, is planning to create 25 'Giving Nature a Home' gardens in schools. The gardens will provide children with the opportunity for hands–on learning experiences and the ability to connect with nature.

Schools will be invited to take part in a competition to set up the gardens.

The supermarket has always charged for carrier bags since it first opened in the UK in April 1990 in an effort to reduce its environmental impact.

Giles Hurley, managing director at Aldi, said: "We are proud to have been among the first supermarkets to charge for carrier bags.

"It is an honour to partner with the RSPB. They are the UK's biggest nature conservation charity, playing an important role in protecting our wildlife. Our partnership will leave a long–lasting legacy, a generation of children who are connected to nature, benefit from it, value our wildlife and care and understand enough about it to make a real difference."

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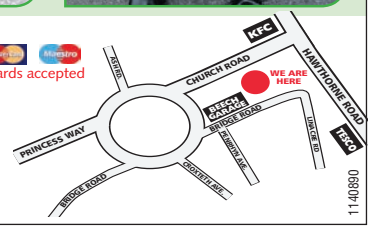

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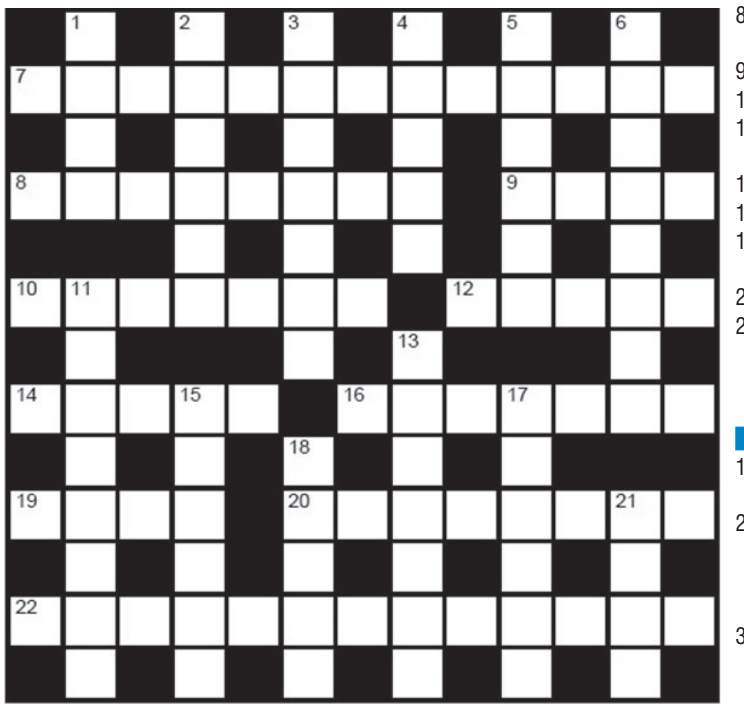

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7 Aboard. 8 Yellow. 9 Keen. 10 Uxorious. 11 Assuage. 13 Cabal. 15 Stuff. 17 Beneath. 20 Detritus. 21 Tour. 22. Ordeal. 23 Outing.

Down: 1 Obsess. 2 Vain. 3 Adjudge. 4 Nylon. 5 Ultimate. 6 Koruna. 12 Unfurled. 14 Pension. 16 Theory. 18 Truant. 19 Stale. 21 Ta Ta.

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ACROSS

7 Latin phrase for the male head of a family (13)
8 Arrangement of lines in a poem (8)
9 Above (4)
10 Playhouse (7)
12 Gradually ceasing to exist (5)
14 Incline (5)
16 Embargo (7)
19 Former Russian emperor (4)
20 Sophistication (8)
22 Estimate based on knowledge or experience (8,5)

DOWN

1 Food used to trap or entice (4)
2 Condition in which part of an organ protrudes through its cavity wall (6)
3 Matters of commercial or public interest or concern (7)
4 Loose, lightweight overgarment worn to protect the clothing while working (5)
5 Dark or poorly lit (6)
6 Filbert (8)
11 Residential suburb of Southport (8)
13 Prohibits (7)
15 Robbery at sea (6)
17 Agree (6)
18 Stale-smelling (5)
21 Long, pointed tooth in elephants and walruses for example (4)

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County's motorists more likely to face breath tests in June

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

MOTORISTS in Lancashire are among the most likely to be tested on the roadside for drink–driving this month, according to a new report by a national insurance company.

UK insurance company Direct Line analysed the most recent figures released by the Home Office for breath tests carried out by police in England and Wales, which showed that the number of tests doubles from the monthly average in June, making it the second busiest month for testing after December.

Some 108,592 tests were carried out by police in England and Wales in June 2013, compared to an annual monthly average of 56,969.

Motorists in some police force areas are up to 16 times more likely to be tested than those elsewhere – and North Wales, Dyfed–Powys and Lancashire are the breath test 'hotspots' while neighbouring Merseyside was 10th in the list.

A total of 40,991 tests were carried out in Lancashire in 2013, averaging 28 tests per 1,000 residents.

June has continually been one of the peak months for roadside breath testing since 2008.

Whilst December remains the most popular month for roadside testing, there is also a clear peak in June as police target drink drivers in summer months.

As barbeque season begins and the warmer temperatures encourage daytime drinking,

Drinking at home – such as at barbeques – where it is difficult to quantify measures can lead to people going over the drink–driving limit

Direct Line is urging motorists to avoid consuming alcohol drinking before driving where possible. The alcohol levels in traditional summer beverages, such as Sangria or Pimms and lemonade, may vary significantly particularly when made at home.

Gus Park, director of motor at Direct Line, said: "From barbecues to all–day sporting fixtures, daytime drinking is a part of the British summer. But you can have a drink and have some fun without getting behind the wheel afterwards.

"Some summer drinks are easy to consume but difficult to measure. If you're going to be doing something where the drinks are flowing, the best approach is to plan on getting home afterwards without having to drive."

News Desk Tel. 01704 392400

Trust talk in aid of educational charity

THE Lathom Park Trust are holding a fundraising on The Life of Lady Margaret, the mother of Henry VII, at Hurlston Hall Golf Club, Scarisbrick starting at noon on Thursday, June 18.

Donations from this will go to the English–Speaking Union, an international educational charity which aims to bring together and empower people of different languages and cultures.

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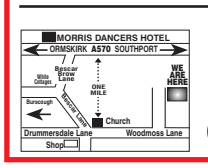

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Summer walks programme announced

THE ACTion Walkers, who are affiliated to the Aughton Community Together village community group, have announced their summer programme of circular walks to be held during June, July, August and September.

All the walks start from Aughton Village Hall in Winifred Lane at 2pm and are on easy to moderate terrain at a leisurely pace.

Each walk is around five miles long with the route dependent on the weather and the condition of the footpaths – and walkers can look forward to a cup of tea at the end!

The walks and refreshments are free but a small donation for Queenscourt Hospice, which provides end–of–life care for people in West Lancashire, Southport and Formby, would be appreciated.

There is no need to book a place and walkers can just turn up on the day.

The details of the walks are as follows:

- Saturday, June 13 Friends' Burial Ground.
- Sunday, June 28 The Parish of Lydiate.
- Sunday, July 12 Butchers Lane Circular.
- Sunday, July 26 Three Farms and a Canal.
- Sunday, August 9 Edge Hill Campus.
- Saturday, August 22 Clieves Hill.
- Saturday, September 5 Downholland.
- Saturday, September 19 Melling.

For further details group leaders, Mark and Julia, can be contacted by emailing actionwalkers@gmail.com.

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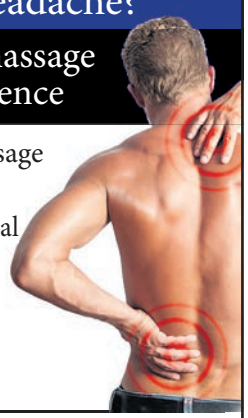

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The Sansiro Amigos Under–10s football team

Amigos edged out in penalty shoot–out drama

A TALENTED junior football squad from Skelmersdale were denied victory in a prestigious international tournament in a penalty shoot–out.

Competing against teams from all over the world in the Barcelona Football Festival, the Sansiro Amigos under–10s made it to the final where they finished all square before losing out on spot kicks.

William Shire, from Sansiro Youth FC, said: "The boys and parents have worked very hard over the past year with various fundraising events to help with the cost of the trip. This was a huge achievement and they will have some great memories."

While in Spain, the boys also visited the home of football giants FC Barcelona.

William added: "Sansiro Amigos would like to say a big thank–you to Charlton Mini Coaches who kindly provided free transport for all the boys and their families to and from the airport. Without this it would have added a huge cost towards our trip."

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SPRING BLOOMS AT BRUNLEES COURT

Southport retirees and their families came together to celebrate the beginning of the new season, at a spring Inspiration Day at McCarthy and Stone's development, Brunlees Court.

The free event, which took place at the Assisted Living development on Cambridge Road, really captured the imagination of local people, who were able to enjoy the beautiful flower arranging demonstrations from interior designer, Beverley Love. Guests were also invited to experience the wonderful food tasting by CaterPlus Chef, Ian Sankey, as well as an array of delicious cakes and savory snacks on offer.

Fiona Brooks, Sales and Marketing Director for McCarthy and Stone, said: "Our spring open day was a fantastic way to demonstrate what a happy and thriving community we have here at Brunlees Court. It proved popular not least because of the fabulous food on offer from Ian, but the wonderfully inspiring floral display to get everyone ready for spring.

"It was lovely to see new faces from the community, as well as family and friends having such a great time, many of which also benefited from a tour to see first-hand the enjoyable and hassle-free lifestyle on offer at Brunlees Court."

McCarthy and Stone's Assisted Living developments aim to bridge the gap between conventional Retirement Living and residential care. Homeowners are able to retain independence in the form of home ownership, with their very own front door, yet still have the peace of mind of a range of additional 24/7 security and support services.

Fiona continued: "At McCarthy and Stone we are proud to help people stay independent for longer and really make the most of every minute of their retirement. That is why we are so committed to delivering an exceptional lifestyle for our residents at Brunlees Court with a beautiful setting, fantastic food and luxuriously appointed accommodation – all with the peace of mind that care, support and friendship is close at hand. This is particularly important to relatives who want to be certain their parent, uncle, aunt or grandparent is enjoying the very best quality of life."

Facilities at Brunlees Court include a fantastic on-site table service restaurant, a homeowners' lounge, 0.75 acre private gardens in which to relax, two lifts, and flexible domestic and personalised care packages, which can be tailored to provide varying levels of support according to homeowners' individual needs. In addition, a dedicated and experienced Estates Manager ensures the smooth running of the development, with 24 hour, 365 days a year on-site staffing, providing peace of mind for both homeowners and their families alike.

To take a tour of the show apartments at Brunlees Court, call 01704 510731. For more information on Brunlees Court please visit www.mccarthyandstone.co.uk

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Young musicians taking part in showcase named

Report by **Henry James**

DOUGLAS Music, Parbold, has announced the young musicians performing its 2015 Young Musicians Showcase at Parbold Village Hall, West Lancashire as the opening concert of its Midsummer Piano Festival, Friday, June 19 to Sunday, June 21.

Following the success of the 2014 Showcase, this highly respected music society opened the opportunity to young people from across Lancashire and the North West.

From a substantial and talented group of entrants, eight performers have been selected by independent advisers. These young pianists, singers, and guitarist from Southport, Crosby, Preston, Wigan, Orrell, Parbold, Glazebury, Warrington and Liverpool will perform in a public concert on Friday, June 19 at 7.45 p.m. in the Auditorium at Parbold Village Hall, Parbold, WN8 7DN.

The eight performers are: Ben Crumpton aged 18, from Orrell, Wigan, plays acoustic guitar and in 2014 won Wigan Young Musician Of The Year in the advanced section.

Pianist Hannah Spencer, who had her 16th birthday on May 1 this year, is also from Orrell, Wigan. Hannah will be playing works by Claude Debussy, Frank Bridge and Christopher Norton.

Tom Bennet, a 16 year old pianist also from Wigan, is currently studying A level Music. As well as playing the piano since he was seven years old, Tom sings, plays the drums and used to be a horn–player in Skelmersdale Brass Band.

Pianist Ethan Mitchell, 16, from Glazebury, Warrington, was a finalist in Wigan's 2014 Young Musician of the Year Competition and accompanies other young musicians, church choirs and composes his own music.

Harry Spencer, a 14 year–old pianist from Preston, only started learning the piano five years ago and has passed all his grades with distinction. As a student at Broughton High School, he is heavily involved in the school's musical life. He plays in school bands, is learning organ at his local church and

Rachel Burnett **Code NA**

accompanies a Fulwood local amateur dramatics group.

Rachel Burnett is twelve years old and lives in Crosby. She began studying singing and piano at the age of seven and is now in her first year at the Saturday Junior Royal Northern College of Music. Rachel has won numerous festivals and scholarships throughout the North West and was recently chosen to represent Southport at The British and International Federation of Festivals of Music's North West Regional Championship at Alderley Edge in September 2015.

Angelina Dorlin–Barlow, a singer, is 14 years old, lives in Southport and attends the junior RNCM Saturday school. She recently won the 2014 Southport Young Musician of the Year competition, adjudicated by Prof. Ian Tracey, from Liverpool Cathedral. Her prize was to give a lunchtime recital at Holy Trinity Church.

Justin Turnbull, a 20 year old pianist, is studying Music at Bristol University. He started taking lessons with tutor Ann Roberts in 2009 and in a few years passed his final grade with distinction. In addition to his piano studies, Justin enjoys singing with the Bristol University Chamber Choir.

The performers and their accompanists will have the opportunity to play on Douglas Music's 2000 Steinway 'D' Grand, from the world famous Barbican Concert Hall, London.

For more information logonto http://www.parbolddouglasmusic.org/

Society to perform Hi–de–Hi in memory of Rob

MAWDESLEY Amateur Dramatics Society aims to take you on a nostalgic trip down to the seaside as it presents the stage version of the BAFTA award–winning television show Hi–de–Hi!

They are also doing the play in memory of former MADS member Rob Taylor who died in December.

Set in 1959 the plot follows Jeffrey Fairbrother (Adrian Barradell) who has quit his job as a professor at Cambridge University to become entertainments manager at Maplins holiday camp in Crimpton–on–Sea.

He immediately catches the amorous eye of Gladys Pugh (Sam Quinn) the chief Yellowcoat. While he is fending off her affections, we learn that Joe Maplin is opening a new holiday camp in the Bahamas and the winner of the annual Miss Yellowcoat competition will be asked to go and work in this new Caribbean camp.

Central to the action is the potty chalet maid from Lancashire Peggy Ollerenshaw (Bridgett Welch) who dreams of becoming a Yellowcoat and convinces Jeffrey that she is an ideal candidate for the vacant job.

Meanwhile camp host Ted Bovis (Mark Wolstenholme) has to employ numerous money–making schemes in order to pay his alimony to his ex–wife who has unexpectedly turned up while camp comic Spike Dixon (Philip Quinn) is busy making his ever more outrageous costumes.

In the meantime the dancers Yvonne and Barry Stuart–Hargreaves (Pauline Strachan & Clive Hepplestone) send the rumour mill

The Hi–de–Hi cast **Code NA**

into overdrive when they overhear Gladys escorting Jeffrey back to his chalet late one night. But what really happened?

The play is directed by Debbie Wells who said: "We have all really enjoyed rehearsals for the play and feel that the show will both be a spot of nostalgia for those who enjoyed the original TV series as well as being entertaining for those who missed it.

"We are also doing the play in memory of MADS member Rob Taylor who sadly passed away in December. It was Rob's intention to direct this play himself. And of course there is also plenty of opportunity for audience participation – Hi–de–Hi!"

Performances are June 18, 19 and 20 at 7:30pm in Mawdesley Village Hall (bar open Friday and Saturday nights). Tickets are £8 available from Londis in Mawdesley or by emailing: mawdesleydrama@yahoo.co.uk.

henry.james@champnews.com

Music teacher and students to give concert at Greenbank

MUSIC teacher Julie Ann Carr and her students are to give a concert at Greenbank Theatre in Southport on Saturday, July 4 at 7.30pm.

The evening will include a varied programme including piano, singing and group items.

The compere is Clive Morris.

For advance ticket sales call 07947 706610 or julieanncarr@bevanmail.net

The box office opens from June 17 and the number to call from then is 07922 531519.

Seven of Julie's students have received a diploma (DipLCM) after taking the London College Of Music Examinations. They are: Elizabeth Ackers, Nicola Higham, Anna Hopwood, Charlie McMullan, Cordelia Lieb–Corkish, Oishi Sikdar, and David Warren.

Meanwhile Julie is performing an Organ Extravaganza on Saturday, June 20 at 7.30pm at St Wilfrid's Church, Standish.

henry.james@champnews.com

Evening was 'well acted, but the cast 'deserved better material'

• Kings And Queens
• Little Theatre Southport

THE first half of the evening was The Regina Monologues whereby the six wives of Henry VIII took turns to regale the audience with their account of their life with the monarch, but as if it was happening today rather than in the 16th century, *writes Ron Ellis.*

The idea was to show that, although courting practices may have changed and communications have been totally altered by modern technology, human nature remains the same.

This was cleverly done by having Anne of Cleves, aka Anna (Jennifer Corcoran) contact the King via an internet dating site; Catherine of Aragon, aka Cathy (Helene Porter), using IVF treatment; and young Catherine Howard, aka Katie (Bridie Flanagan), communicating with the monarch by text on her mobile phone.

Unfortunately, as the programme merely noted the wives' abbreviated Christian names, with no mention of dates, it was difficult to work out which Queen was which, especially for people with little knowledge of Tudor history.

For them, the play possibly worked on a different, non–historical, basis as if they were watching the Vagina Monologues or an uncensored broadcast of 'Loose Women', the dialogue being liberally sprinkled with four letter expletives and graphic descriptions of the women's sexual encounters with the man they called Ginger.

Hardly uplifting either, covering, as it did, abuse of minors, alcoholism, agony of childbirth, blackmail and incest. Not unlike Coronation Street in fact.

The other parts were played by Michelle Pappini as Jane Seymour, Val Pedlar as Catherine Parr aka Katherine and Angela McIntyre as Anne Boleyn aka Annie and all six actresses were all exceptionally proficient in their roles,

The Regina Monologues was very much a woman's play but at least it wasn't boring, unlike the second event of the evening, an excerpt from The Lion in Winter.

This time we were taken back to the 12th century and the reign of Henry II. Val Pedlar and Bridie Flanagan were excellent in their second roles of the evening as Eleanor of Aquitaine and Princess Alais, whilst Mike Stowell was superb as the King.

The action, which took place over an interminable sixty three and a half minutes, was basically a shouting match between Henry, his wife, Eleanor of Aquitaine, whom he had let out of prison for the occasion, and his young mistress whom he'd invited round for Christmas.

None of the Henry's three sons appeared in this excerpt so we missed the intrigue of them fighting over their inheritance that was the main theme of the play and which would have given this excerpt some relevance.

What we got instead was endless ranting. Promises were made and then broken and nothing was finally resolved which somehow made the whole thing a total waste of time.

Star Rating: 5 out of 10. Well acted. They deserved better material.

EVENTS - OUT & ABOUT

Northern Chamber Orchestra
The Atkinson
Southport PR8 1DB

Saturday
13 June, 7.30pm
Spring into The Four Seasons

Nicholas Ward, Violin
Tracey Redfern, Trumpet

Vivaldi The Four Seasons
Jeremiah Clarke Trumpet Voluntary
Mozart Divertimento in D K136
Delius Two Aquarelles
Handel Trumpet Suite in D
Arthur Butterworth Elegy for Diana

TICKETS: £15, £7 students, 18s & under free (+£2.50 transaction fee for phone / online bookings).
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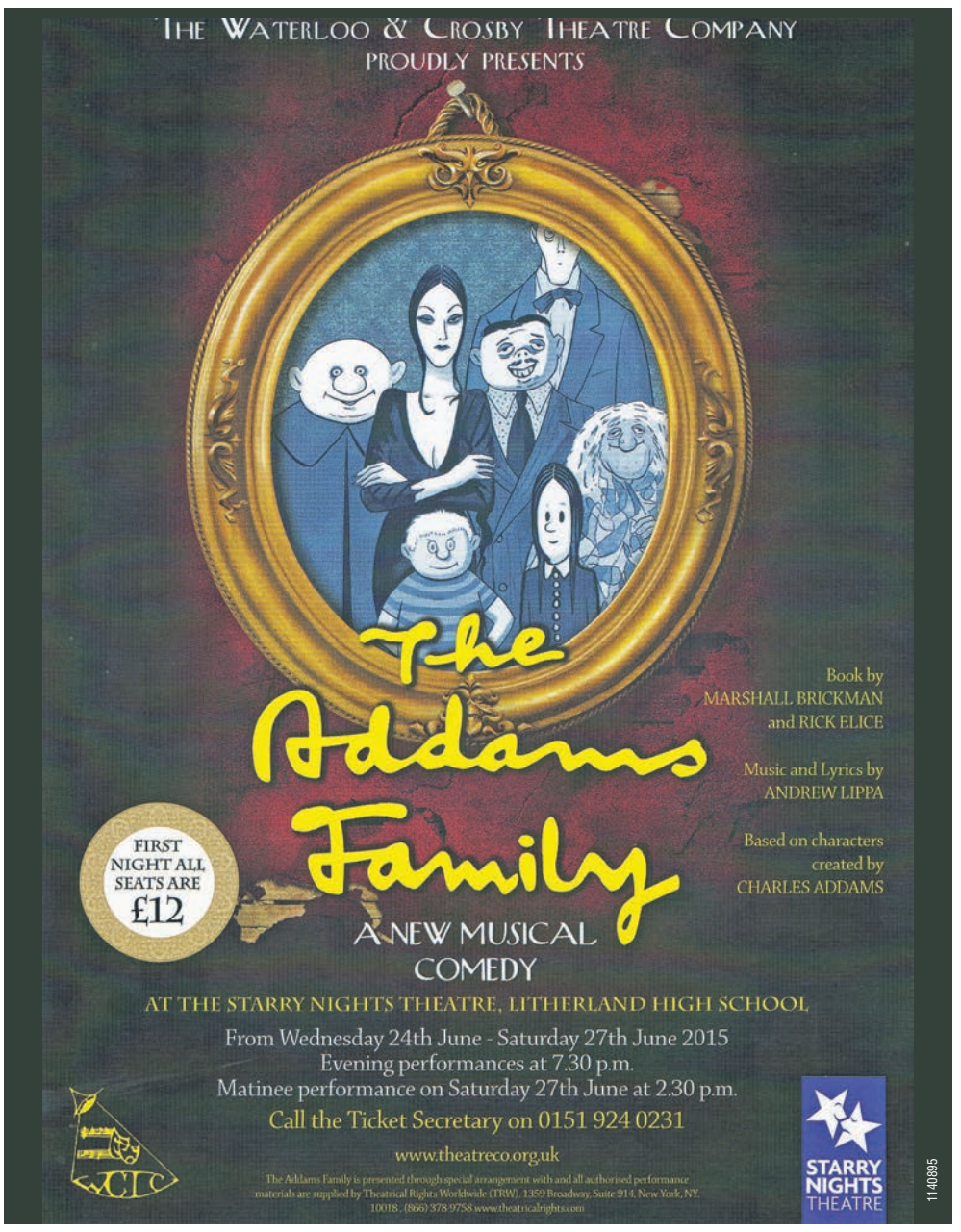
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JULY

Sat 11th
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Thu 23rd
SING-A-LONG-A FROZEN
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Sat 25th
ROY CHUBBY BROWN
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Fri 31st
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AUGUST

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P.M.

45572

PRAYER

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

Never known to fail.

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, faithful Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother, O Holy Mary Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity.

(Make Request).

There are none that can withstand your powers. Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 Times).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3 times).

Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine.

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FOR APPLICATION AND FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT
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or visit the website
www.haskayne.lancs.sch.uk
0151 526 0614
or on the Lancashire County Council website

Closing date: 12pm on Friday July 3rd 2015
1140995

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Our charity provides information, advice and support for disabled people and carers
Our vision is
"to enable people to live the lives that they choose."

If you feel you can commit and have the aptitude, have a look at our website **www.dawl.org.uk** for the Information Pack or contact the Manager, Tony Lewis on **01695 51819** or **email tonylewis@dawl.org.uk.**

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1140998

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Poppy Break Centre

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Food & Beverage Supervisor

To apply visit our website:
http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/about-us/jobs-at-the-legion

Alternatively: Collect an application form in person from Byng House, 30 Promenade, Southport, PR8 1QU

Closing date for applications: ***21st June 2015***

Please note CV's are not accepted and we are not seeking the assistance of recruitment agencies. Preferential treatment will be given to Legion employees at risk of redundancy.
1140967

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Headteacher Mr G Aldridge MA (Oxon), MEd

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As Range High is fully committed to the Safeguarding of its students, the successful candidate must obtain a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure in order to be appointed.

Further details and an application form can be obtained from the school's website at www.range.sefton.sch.uk

Closing date for completed applications: **Noon on Friday 19 June 2015**
1140986

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DEATHS

SAUNDERSON ARTHUR

2nd June 2015

We are sad to say goodbye. Too soon for me dad but glad we were together. Your loving son Andrew and daughter in law Teresa xxx

My lovely dad, my hero. Will carry you in my heart always and forever. Your loving daughter Gillian xxx

A loving gramps, we loved so much, gone too soon from all of us. Michelle, Beth and our Ol xxx

We'll miss you "My La" Love always Lou, Darryl, Leash and Mog xxxx

1140952

DEATHS

Birch Margaret

Peacefully passed away at home on 2nd June 2015 aged 88 years.

Loving and devoted wife of the late John, much loved mum who will be sadly missed by her sons Neil, Trevor and Christopher and their families together with all her grandchildren and great grandchildren. The family would like to thank all the nurses and carers who looked after Margaret so well. Service will take place on Friday 19th June 2015 at Emmanuel Methodist United Reformed Church, Ormskirk at 2.15pm. Family flowers only please but donations if so desired to Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) and Emmanuel Methodist Church. For further enquiries contact Hunters Funeral Directors 128b Burscough Street, Ormskirk L39 2EY. Tel: 01695 572997.

1140968

DEATHS

JOLLEY LEN

June 1st 2015

Aged 68 Years.

Devoted husband of Mary, loved by all his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Service at Southport Crematorium on Monday 15th June at 1:20pm. He will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Family flowers only please but donations are being gratefully received for Alzheimer's Society. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport PR8 5AW. Tel: 01704 500086.

1140912

DEATHS

Robinson Jane Theresa (Nee Jones)

30th May 2015 at Woodlands Hospice

Mother of Anthony.

Grandmother to Neil and Ciaran.

Sadly missed. R.I.P.

45573

DEATHS

Balmer Ivy Janet

4th June 2015

Aged 76

Following a short illness, Ivy died peacefully at her son's home.

Those we love don't go away, They walk beside us every day, Unseen, unheard, but always near, Still loved, still missed and very dear.

Norma, Fred, Andrew and Joe xxxx

6110452

BIRTHDAYS

KEN LINDSAY

14TH JUNE

Happy 70th Birthday

TO the best dad&grandad love you loads mandy, john, joanne, tim, leanne, jonathon, ella, alex, nathan xxx

6110451

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1138782

DEATHS

Saunderson Arthur

2nd June 2015

Peacefully in hospital aged 80 years of Skelmersdale.

The dearly loved husband of Ann, and a loving dad, grandad and great grandad. Funeral service at St Helens Crematorium on Monday 15th June 2015 at 9.30am. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for C.C.U. at Aintree Hospital.

All enquiries to H. Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale. Tel: 01695 722122/720012

1140951

DEATHS

FURLEY Royston Kenneth

on 6th June 2015 Aged 85 years

Peacefully in his sleep at Birch Abbey Care Home. Devoted husband of the late Dorothy, uncle to Linda, Lynn and Paul. Funeral service at Lord Street West United Church on Tuesday 16th June at 11:30am followed by committal at Southport Crematorium. Family flowers only please but donations are being gratefully received for Dementia UK. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport, PR8 5AW. Telephone: 01704 500086.

1140999

DEATHS

Milligan Robert (Bob)

3rd June 2015, peacefully at Silver Birch Lodge Nursing Home, aged 86 years

Much loved Husband, Dad and Grandad. Funeral Service at St. Michael's Church, Aughton, on Tuesday 16th June at 12.00 noon, followed by committal at Southport Crematorium. Family flowers only by request but donations if so desired for St. Michael's Church, Aughton. Donations & further enquiries please to Sally Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20, Moss Delph Lane, Aughton. Tel: 01695 424888.

1140924

DEATHS

WELLS JOYCE (Mollie)

29th May 2015 Aged 92 years

Devoted wife of the late George. Lovely mum of Lesley and the late Michael, beautiful and wonderful nan to Paula and Nicola and husbands John and Dom, great nan to Rebecca and Ben. She will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Service at Southport Crematorium on Friday 12th June at 3:20pm. Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being gratefully received for Teenage Cancer Trust. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport, PR8 5AW. Telephone: 01704 500086.

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1139121

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HUNT David

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT P. Ball trading as The Lost World Nursery of 33 Clovelly Drive Newburgh, West Lancs WN8 7LX is applying for a licence to use Unit 5 56/60, Mew Lane Burscough L40 0RY as an operating centre for 1 goods vehicle. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

1140854

THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (POOL HEY LANE, SCARISBRICK, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) (No.2) ORDER 2015

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Lancashire County Council intend to make an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit any motor vehicle or cycles from proceeding over that length of Pool Hey Lane, for a distance of 20 metres either side of Pool Hey crossing, Pool Hey Lane, Scarisbrick.

An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- Pool Hey Lane – A570 Southport Road – Snape Green - Wyke Cop Road – Wyke Road – Pool Hey Lane and vice versa.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow essential level crossing maintenance works to be carried out.

The prohibition will be operative daily from 2230 hours to 0700 hours on Monday 22nd June 2015 until Wednesday 24th June 2015, or until completion of the works within this period.

Paul Dunne, Public Realm Manager
Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701

[Ref: LHS/BS/08/115/ARH]

1140971

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

DEATHS

Barbara Bampton

4th June aged 101

Loving sister to Norman and Aunty to all her Nieces and Nephews. Will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

Family flowers only, or if desired, donations to Cottage Lane Mission would be gratefully received. Further enquiries to MLS Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton L39 5DZ 01695 424888

45575

DEATHS

Balmer Ivy Janet

4th June 2015

Beloved Sister, Aunty & Great Aunty.

Words can't describe how much we will miss your smile, your kindness and your fun loving ways.

In our hearts, you'll always stay. Loved and remembered every day.

Goodnight, sleep tight with all our love
Your broken hearted sister Maureen
xxxx

Nephews and nieces Stephen, Cathy, Michael, Sharon, Janet
xxxx

And great nieces and nephews Christopher, Jennifer, Jacob, Scarlett, Scout and Eliza
xxxx

45576

DEATHS

Peel Arthur

June 3rd 2015

Peacefully after a long illness bravely borne.

Beloved husband of the late Margaret. A loving dad to Andrew and Ruth and father-in-law to Jean and John. A devoted grandad to Karen, Ryan, Lawrence, Martin and their partners. A loving Gangan to all his great grandchildren. Arthur will be sadly missed. Funeral Service and Committal will take place at Southport Crematorium on Friday 12th June 2015 at 2.00pm. Family flowers only by request please. Donations if so desired are being gratefully received by the family on behalf of the Alzheimers Society.

Further enquiries please to Cookson Tyrer Funeral Directors, 2 Smithy Walk, Burscough. L40 5UU. Tel 01704 897770.

1140981

DEATHS

WRIGHT ELIZABETH (JUDY)

June 2nd 2015 Aged 81 Years

Loving mum of Michelle, devoted nana to Amanda and Alex, dear sister to John. She will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Service at St Philip & St Paul with Wesley Parish Church on Thursday 11th June at 11:30am followed by interment at Duke Street Cemetery. Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being gratefully received for British Lung Foundation. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport, PR8 5AW. Telephone: 01704 500086.

1140942

PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Application No: 2015/0554/FUL Change of use of rural buildings to form 10 residential units at Holly Farm Buildings, Plex Lane, Halsall.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.
Application No: 2015/0567/FUL Variation of Condition No. 2 imposed on planning permission 2014/0336/FUL to vary the approved plans at Aqua Fabrications Ltd, Belmont House, Garnett Place, Skelmersdale.
Application No: 2015/0571/FUL Erection of a single wind turbine with a maximum blade to tip height of 90m, micrositing and associated infrastructure including access tracks, areas of hardstanding, control buildings and cabling at Land To The West Of Basford Farm, Moss Lane, Simonswood.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.
The proposed development affects a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 applies.

APPLICATION(S) AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA / LISTED BUILDING

Application No: 2015/0511/FUL Replacement of existing conservatory with garden room at The Farm Cottage, Parbold Hill, Parbold.
Application No: 2015/0513/FUL Variation of Condition No. 3 imposed on planning permission 2014/0288/COU to read: 'The use hereby permitted shall only be open to public callers between the hours of 12.00 and 1.30am Monday to Saturday, and 16.00 and 1.30am Sundays or Public/ Bank Holidays' at Chicken Lovers, 7 Moorgate, Ormskirk.
Application No: 2015/0519/FUL First floor side extension at 31 Hall Road, Scarisbrick.
Application No: 2015/0546/FUL Biomass boiler installation at Lancashire Manor Hotel, Prescott Road, East Pimbo, UpHolland, Skelmersdale.
Application No: 2015/0561/FUL Variation of condition no. 9 imposed on planning permission 2012/0771/FUL to allow the repositioning of the bat house to address ecology concerns over connectivity to adjacent woods at The Bungalow, Lathom Park, Lathom.
Application No: 2015/0568/FUL Installation of an external ramp in order to provide level access into the branch at HSBC, 5 - 7 Moor Street, Ormskirk.

PRIOR APPROVAL OF DETAILS APPLICATION (TELECOMMUNICATIONS)

Application No: 2015/0576/PNT Development by Telecommunications Code System Operator - One 12 metre high monopole with 1 No. antenna to be fixed to the top of the monopole. Installation of 2 No. ground based radio equipment cabinets. The creation of an equipment compound to accommodate the radio equipment housing and the installation of cabling and associated development at Land To The Rear Of, 63 Ayrefield Road, Roby Mill, UpHolland.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.
The applications are available for viewing on the Council's web site www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to the Planning Division, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.
Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development
In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Assistant Director Planning
Dated: 10th June 2015 PDNOT847

1140375

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TVR is back – but patience is a virtue

Life On Cars
DAVID SIMISTER
www.lifeoncars.blogspot.com

LETS get one thing straight – it's great news that TVR is back.

After so many rumours and false starts it finally looks as though things are looking up for my all time favourite manufacturer.

Les Edgar, the current company boss, didn't do a Lotus and promise the world all sorts of exotic appetisers when he bought the defunct manufacturer back in 2013.

What he did instead was quietly assemble a team, work out what he wanted to do and then went off and actually did it – and what he's come back with is a design partnership with McLaren F1 design legend Gordon Murray, an engine agreement with Cosworth – yes, as in Escort Cosworth fame – and plans for four new models.

I'd normally say I can't wait, but in this case I – and every other sports car nut – will have to wait two years.

Which is a rare bit of common sense.

For every MG or Morgan the British landscape is littered with defunct sports car names who undid themselves with overambitious – and not terribly well thought out – ideas.

TVR, of course, was at one point the dominant force in British sports cars but prudence wasn't exactly its strong point.

Rather than honing its existing offerings it decided to ditch its supply of Rover V8s and come with its own engines, go racing at Le Mans and create the Cerbera Speed 12. Like all good parties, it had a colossal hangover, and the Blackpool factory closed its doors nearly a decade ago.

That's why I'm glad – from the initial signs at least – Mr Edgar isn't over–egging the pudding. He's realised he can't do it alone and teamed up with some of the best brains in the British car industry, and more importantly he's taking his time to get it right.

I'm sure I can't be the only petrolhead who'd rather wait two years for TVR to get its revival just right than to have another Delfino Ferroce rushed into the showrooms.

You'll realise those three letters mean so much more than something you order at a cocktail bar and that it's important its custodians don't cock it up.

No rush, chaps!

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- New Alloys
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- Air Con
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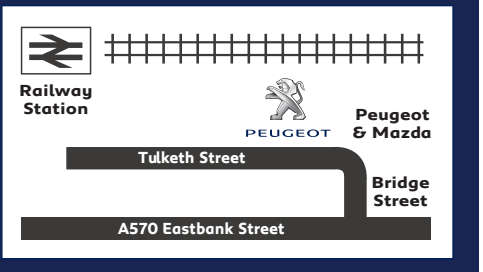

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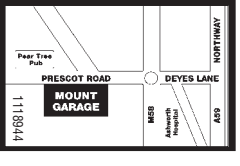

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Jack's the lad as he boxes to national semi–finals

A NETHERTON boxer made it to the final four in a national competition aimed at finding the most talented fighters from across the country.

Jack Blood, 12, reached the semi–finals of the National Schoolboys Minor Competition held in Worcester.

The St Ambrose Barlow High School pupil, who represents Sefton Amateur Boxing Club was delighted to be one bout away from the final but lost out in the semi–final on a points decision.

But despite the loss, a place in the final four is an achievement that his club is celebrating.

Jack Blood

A spokesperson for Sefton ABC said: "Jack was unfortunate because he lost on points to a fighter from one of the best clubs in the country so he did really well.

"He did really well to get into the semi–final in the first place especially because it's his first year boxing with us.

"He's a very determined lad and will want to do better next year so he will train hard. He's a very talented young boxer."

Jack first joined Sefton ABC last year when he was required to train three times a week and take part in 'club shows' where he faces off against other boxers from nearby clubs.

Northern just fail to press home victory

NORTHERN failed to beat bottom placed Rainhill at Moor Park as the basement club hung on for the draw, *writes Glenn Wallworth*.

The hosts batted first and managed to reach 181–7 dec off 55 overs, thanks to 61 from opener Stephen Lucas, 31 from skipper James Cole, 30 from Ryan Maddock and 27 from Liam Grey, with Mohammad Qureshi taking 3–60.

In reply, Qureshi hit 31 and last wicket pairing Simon Brown 24* and Matthew Dale 1* dug in for the draw as Rainhill closed on 165–9, with Tom Sephton 4–21 and Maddock 4–64 taking the bulk of the wickets.

Ormskirk dropped to second place behind New Brighton in the Liverpool & District Cricket Competition Premier Division after losing by 71 runs at third placed Formby.

Ormskirk knocked off top spot after heavy defeat at Formby

The hosts who elected to bat first were indebted to fine knocks from Dane Williams 95, young Australian Patrick Pisel 73*, Lancashire's Stephen Parry 36 and Jack Vale 33 as they racked up 252–4 dec off 51.5 overs.

In reply, John Armstrong 52 and Andy Baybutt 63 took the visitors to 103–1, before a mid to late order collapse saw them dismissed for 181, with Parry 4–32 and Alex Lines 3–36 taking the bowling honours.

Southport & Birkdale were beaten by three wickets after being asked to bat first at Leigh and posting a defendable total of 235, thanks in the main to the fluent Josh Bohannon 83, Australian James McCombie 51* and 39 from all rounder Scott Lees, with Richard Dempster taking 4–72.

In reply, Matt Hibbert 76, Adam Shallcross 45* and skipper Matty McKiernan 38 helped the hosts to victory on 236–7.

This weekend's local LDCC Premier Division fixtures: Bootle v Ormskirk, Formby v New Brighton, Highfield v S&B, Northern v Birkenhead Park.

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Brockley hits 175 for Maghull

MAGHULL are in second place in the First Division after a 97 run home win over bottom placed Newton le Willows.

The hosts' first innings total of 229–6 dec off 52 overs was built around a monumental unbeaten 175 from Australian Joel Brockley who hit 26x4's and 2x6's off 180 balls. In reply, 3–15 from Jack Snowden and 3–25 from Declan Devine helped seal the win and dismiss the visitors for 132.

In the Second Division, Burscough are in seventh heaven after extending their winning streak to 7 wins from 7 games with a 128 run home win over Birkenhead St Mary's.

The hosts chose to bat and racked up 239–2 declared in just 36 overs, thanks to unbeaten knocks from Australian Navdeep Aujla 88* and New Zealander Brendan Domigan 81*, with Jon Stone weighing in with 50. In reply, 4–26 from Lee Berrie and 3–33 from Stone helped dismiss the visitors for 111 and seal a huge winning margin.

Hightown St Mary's were thrashed by 126 runs at Wavertree, after choosing to bat the hosts were dismissed for 172 with skipper Josh Birch top scoring with 49, whilst Kamran Hussain 4–24 and Jim Kelly 3–56 were the pick of the bowlers. In reply, only Kelly 17 and Bright Njanji 11 were able to reach double figures as the visitors were demolished for just 46, with Matt Nation claiming 6–15 and Jafari Toppen 3–23.

This weekend's local LDCC First and Second Division fixtures (1pm): Liverpool v Maghull, Burscough v Spring View and Skelmersdale v Hightown St Mary's.

Skem Utd chairman thanks supporters by pegging prices

by **Neil Leatherbarrow**

SKELMERSDLAE United Football Club chairman Paul Griffiths has rewarded the club's supporters for the hard work and generous donations many of them made during last season by freezing season ticket prices at Stormy Corner.

Season ticket prices for the coming season will be Adults £180, Concessions £100, Juniors (under 16's) £20. Concessions include; unemployed, armed forces and disabled supporters.

Tickets can be purchased by contacting the club on 01695 722123, where they be paid for by debit card or alternatively 01695 575958.

Chairman Griffiths said: "The supporters gave us a lot of help in the second–half of last season, not only by 'digging their hands into their pockets' but by raising money generally for the club and significantly attendances didn't suffer despite results not going superbly on the pitch, so the club's director's decided it would good to reward them by not imposing an increase in season ticket prices.

"This gives them three free home games over the course of a season and also helps the club by giving us a financial boost in the summer months."

When asked how sponsorship and support from outside the club is going Paul talked very positively, saying: "The publicity given to us in the local media has attracted help, in both instant money and with raising money off the pitch.

"Although we still have a long way to go before we are bringing in what I think we should be from the local business community, we have seen a vast improvement in the situation and I must thank those that have signed up to help Skelmersdale United out over the next season and encourage those that have spoken about helping us to go through with it. There are still plenty of things local businesses can do though. Remember the better we do as a club, the more publicity Skelmersdale gets as a town and that can only benefit everyone."

Paul continued by talking about next season. He said: "We are all looking forward to the new season, work is ongoing on the ground, where a small gang have been very busy building a new wall around the pitch, the dressing rooms have been tidied up and others are busy painting or working on the pitch.

"We as a board of directors are working on improving the infrastructure of the club and the Social Club is fast becoming a popular venue within the town and under its new stewardship is showing an increase in bookings, especially for weddings and family functions.

"Added to this the club lottery is being promoted and if anybody that cannot attend games wants to help the club out that is a very useful way. These all raise money for the club which is vital if we are to build on the positives of the last few seasons."

Anybody wanting to book the social club can do so by phoning the club on 01695 722123 or 07990 723846.

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